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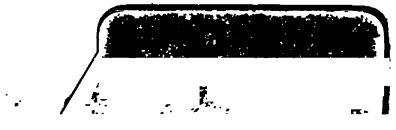

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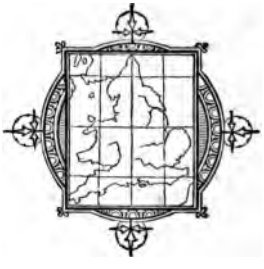
HISTORICAL READERS

BOOK III.

ENGLAND FROM 1327 TO THE REVOLUTION OF 1688 A.D.



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This is the Third of a series of four Readers in English History, of which the first is a Book of Stories from the History of England, and the others form a continuous history of the country from the beginning to the present time.

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IV. England from the Revolution to 1882.

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CHAMBERS'S HISTORICAL READERS.

BOOK III.

ENGLAND FROM 1327 *TO THE REVOLUTION OF* 1688 *A.D.*

THE PLANTAGENETS.

LESSON I.

EDWARD III., 1327–1377 A.D.

Beginning of the French War.

1. EDWARD III. ascended the throne of England in 1327, when only a boy fourteen years of age. His father, Edward II., was alive at the time of his accession, but he was no longer king. He had been deprived of his throne; and after being imprisoned in one fortress after another, was cruelly murdered not long after his son became king.

2. This was not the only unhappy circumstance connected with young Edward's accession. His mother, Isabella, allowed herself to be guided in all

she did by her wicked favourite, Roger Mortimer. For some time these two kept the government in their own hands. But when the young king grew up, he determined to rid himself and his country of their tyranny. Accordingly, assisted by some friends, he seized Mortimer at Nottingham Castle in the presence of the queen, and had him hanged. Isabella spent the remaining twenty-seven years of her life in confinement.

3. Through his mother, Edward had a claim on the crown of France. His claim was not a good one; but Edward, seeing that the French king was eager to get hold of the English possessions in the south of France, decided to assert his title, such as it was, and to make war against that country.

4. Thus began the long and terrible struggle with France known as 'The Hundred Years' War.' It was so called because it lasted more than a hundred years, though the actual fighting was not going on during the whole of the time. The English gained many brilliant victories, but the misery and bloodshed brought on both countries were fearful.

5. The first important event in this war was a sea-fight near Sluys, a town on the coast of Flanders. Edward's plan was to invade France by way of Flanders; but he found his way stopped at Sluys by a powerful French fleet. Edward, however, boldly attacked the enemy with a much smaller force, and after a severe fight, gained a complete victory. The English people were delighted with this success, the more so that by it they recovered a large vessel called the *Christopher*, 1340 A.D.

which the French had taken from them in the previous year.

6. Edward's chief difficulty was want of money, but as he was much beloved by his people, and

Battle of Sluys.

the war was very popular, the parliament voted him large supplies. The way in which these supplies were given to the king seems very strange

to us. The owners of land granted him every ninth sheaf of corn, every ninth lamb, and every ninth fleece of the year; the tradesmen in the towns granted him the ninth part of their movable goods.

7. But why the ninth? Because every tenth lamb and every tenth sheaf already belonged to the Church. In the harvest-fields, therefore, a green bough was fixed into every ninth sheaf to show that it belonged to the king. While the farmer thus retained for himself only eight sheaves out of every ten, the heavy tax seems to have been willingly paid. In return for these liberal supplies, the king granted many requests urged by the House of Commons for the benefit of the people.

ac-ces'-sion, coming to the throne.
cir'-cum-stance, affair, event.
gov'-ern-ment, rule.
tyr'-an-ny, hard, unjust rule.
con-fine'-ment, being shut up.
pos-ses'-sions, lands, provinces.
de-cid'-ed, made up his mind.
as-sert', make good.
brill'-iant, splendid.
re-cov'-ered, got back.
pop'-u-lar, well liked by the people.
par'-lia-ment, chief council of the nation; the Houses of Lords and Commons.
vot'-ed, agreed to give.
sup-plies', food and money.
re-tained', kept.
lib'-er-al, large, unstinted.
urged, pressed strongly.
ben'-e-fit, good.

Sluys, pronounced *sloos.*
The tenth part of everything given to the church is called **tithe.**
A **tax** is money paid by the people to the king or government to keep up the army, navy, &c.

LESSON II.

Cressy.

1. Six years after the sea-fight at Sluys, the famous battle of Cressy was fought. Landing at La Hogue with an army of 30,000 men, 1346 A.D. Edward marched up the left bank of the Seine, plundering the country as he went. In this way he advanced almost as far as Paris, where the people trembled at the news of his approach. But the English themselves were now in a dangerous position, as Philip, king of France, had gathered an enormous army to oppose them.

2. Edward, accordingly, began to retreat towards Flanders, followed by the French army. On his arrival at Cressy, however, he determined to await the attack of the enemy, and to risk a battle. The French army, numbering, it is said, 100,000 men, soon came in sight, and at once attacked the English.

3. The English were drawn up in three divisions on the side of a hill, at the top of which stood a windmill. The young Prince Edward, the king's eldest son, then only sixteen years old, was at the head of the first division; the Earls of Northampton and Arundel at the head of the second; while the king, posting himself in the windmill, held the third in reserve.

4. The exact number of the English army is not known, but it is certain that they were immensely

outnumbered by the French. Edward put his chief trust in his brave archers, but one chronicler tells us that he placed between his archers 'bombards which, with fire, throw little iron balls, to frighten and destroy the horses.' Such were the small beginnings of our modern system of artillery.

5. When Philip came in sight of the English army, he ordered his Genoese crossbow-men to advance. These men, who were hired soldiers from Genoa in Italy, were already fatigued with a long march, and their bowstrings had been wetted and slackened by heavy rain. The English archers, who had wisely protected their bows from the rain, sent forth such a shower of arrows, that, we are told 'it seemed as if it snowed,' and drove back the Genoese in wild confusion. Philip was so enraged, that he ordered his horsemen to fall upon the poor Genoese, many of whom were thus slaughtered by their own friends.

6. The French cavalry now rushed forward to charge the English, and in spite of the showers of arrows, pressed them hard. For some time Prince Edward, who had to bear the brunt of the battle, was in danger; but the king, who watched the progress of the fight from his post near the windmill, refused to send any help. 'Is my son killed or wounded, that he cannot help himself?' asked the king. 'No.' 'Then,' said he, 'tell those that sent you that he shall have no help from me. Let the boy win his spurs; for I wish that the day may be his.'

7. The young prince and his brave companions *stoutly held their* ground, and soon the French fell

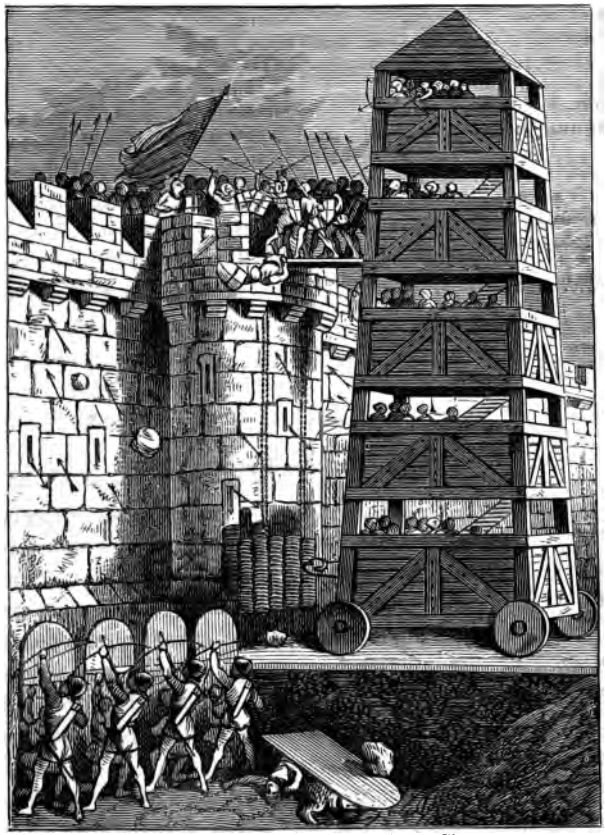
into confusion, and began to flee. In the midst of the fray the old blind King John of Bohemia, who was present in the French army, called on his servants to lead him forward, that he might strike one blow with his sword. So two of his knights tied their bridles to that of the king, and then they rushed into the battle, and were slain. The French were completely defeated, and it is said their losses were greater than the whole number of the English army.

8. This battle established the fame of Prince Edward, who from this time became the darling of the English, and the terror of the French. Either from that terror, or from the colour of the armour he wore on the day of Cressy, he obtained the name of 'The Black Prince,' a name by which he is better known than by all his other titles.

9. After the battle, King Edward besieged Calais, which, after a blockade of eleven months, he starved into submission. Edward promised to spare the city only on condition that six of the principal citizens should come forth with halters round their necks, that the angry king might work his will upon them. Queen Philippa, however, casting herself on her knees before her lord, pleaded so earnestly, that the king gave way; and the six citizens, clothed and fed by the queen, were then allowed to go free.

10. The queen had a good right to be listened to, for she had done valuable service in England, while her husband and son had been gaining victories in France. She had been left in charge at home, when the Scotch, who were close allies of France, had as

usual invaded the northern counties. The invaders were met and entirely routed at Neville's Cross,



Movable Tower used in besieging a City.

near Durham; the Scottish king, David, being taken *prisoner.* *A low* pillar of stones still stands at the

corner of a lane about a mile from Durham, to mark the spot where this victory was gained.

en-or'-mous, very large.
re-serve', part of an army kept back to assist those who are already fighting.
im-mense'-ly, very greatly.
out-num'-bered, exceeded in number.
chron'-i-cler, writer of history.
ar-til'-ler-y, great guns, cannon.
fa-tigued', tired.
slaugh'-tered, killed.
brunt, the hottest and worst.
fray, fight.
es-tab'-lished, made sure.
ob-tained', got.
block-ade', a blocking up with troops or ships, so that no food can be got in.
sub-mis'-sion, a giving in.
val'-u-a-ble, useful, good.
al'-lies, helpers in war.
rout'-ed, put to flight.

Win his spurs. A knight was said to win his spurs when he had performed his first deed of bravery.

LESSON III.

The Black Prince.

1. After the fall of Calais, the war almost entirely ceased for a time, and England seemed to be entering on a period of unusual prosperity. Trade and commerce greatly increased. A love of display, in which the king set the example, spread among all classes. Tournaments lasting two or three weeks were continually taking place. In fact, it appeared as if life had become one long round of pleasure and amusement.

2. It was a fearful change when in 1348 a terrible plague broke out, called the Black Death, which in one year carried off nearly half the population. All classes suffered alike. One of the king's daughters, Princess Joan, died of it at Bordeaux, while on her

way to Spain to meet her affianced husband. In Norwich, upwards of 57,000 died, and twenty churches fell into ruin for want of people to fill them. In Yarmouth, 7000 people out of 10,000 died. In the principal streets of Bristol, grass grew several inches high. No parliaments could meet, nor could any courts of justice be opened.

3. Soon also the work of war and bloodshed began again. The Black Prince, who resided at Bordeaux, as governor of the English province of Gascony, took the field with a body of about 12,000 men. On this occasion he marched far into the heart of France, and gathered enormous spoil; but finding a large army ready to oppose him, he retreated, hoping to reach Bordeaux. Near Poitiers, however, his way was stopped by the French king, John, with an army which, we are told, was six times as large as his own.

4. Prince Edward, seeing he must either fight or surrender, determined to hazard a battle. Drawing up his men on a rising ground surrounded with vineyards, he prepared for action. Early on a September morning the fight began, and at noon all was over. The French were utterly defeated, leaving 8000 dead on the field. Later in the day, King John, who had fought right bravely, was brought to the prince's tent as a prisoner, where he was treated with almost romantic courtesy, the prince acting as his serving-man. He was brought to England, where the Scottish king, David, was also captive.

1356 A.D.

5. *But the Black* Prince was now at the height of

his glory, and was destined also to see misfortune before his life was done. Some years afterwards, he led an army into Spain, and fought there; but though he was victorious, he came back burdened with debt, and weakened with a fatal disease. He was obliged to impose heavy taxes on his Gascon subjects, and his temper was so soured that he, who had been the idol of his people, now turned their hearts from him. He was guilty also of acts of cruelty which have left a foul blot on his fair name; and shortly afterwards he returned to England, where for five years he lingered in a sick-chamber.

6. The remaining years of his father the king were also years of sorrow and disgrace. His French possessions, for which so much blood had been shed, were slipping out of his hands. The brave knights who had shared the glories and perils of his reign, fell one by one from his side, while the vast dominions which had owned his rule, were gradually won back by France. Calais, with the surrounding neighbourhood, and the cities of Bayonne and Bordeaux, were all that remained.

7. At home, too, death had done its sad work. The noble Queen Philippa died, leaving the king, enfeebled both in body and mind, to fall into the hands of worthless favourites; and in 1376, to the great sorrow of the English people, the Black Prince died, a few days before the completion of his forty-sixth year. The aged and worn-out king survived his son only one year, breathing his last in 1377, having already, during his long, eventful reign of fifty years, outlived his popularity and renown.

pe'-ri-od, time.
un-us'-u-al, not ordinary.
pros-per'-i-ty, being well off.
com'-merce, trade with foreign countries.
in-creased', grew.
dis-play', show.
pop-u-la'-tion, people.
af-fi'-anced, promised in marriage.
re-sid'-ed, lived.
de-ter'-mined, resolved.
haz'-ard, risk.
ro-man'-tic, resembling romance, very grand and fine.
cour'-te-sy, kind and graceful manners.
fat'-al, deadly.
im-pose', lay on.
lin'-gered, stayed long.
per'-ils, dangers.
do-min'-ions, possessions.
grad'-u-al-ly, bit by bit.
en-fee'-bled, become weak.
com-ple'-tion, end.
sur-vived', lived longer than.
pop-u-lar'-i-ty, love of the people for him.
re-nown', fame.

The **tour'-na-ments** were the tilting matches in which the knights of that time used to engage. They were fought on horseback, before great crowds of spectators, and were very showy. They were usually only a trial of skill; but the combatants were often wounded, and sometimes even killed.

Gascony, a province in the south-west of France.

LESSON IV.

RICHARD II., 1377–1399 A.D.

The Peasant Rising.

1. The throne of England was again filled by a boy-king, Richard II., eldest son of the famous Black Prince, and grandson of Edward. As he was only eleven years old, his uncles undertook for him the government of the country, and a very difficult task they found it.

2. The glory of the French wars had passed away, and the rich spoils won in so many victories had been wasted in all sorts of extravagance; but the heavy taxation remained, and still more was required to *meet* the expenses of the crown. A poll-tax of

twelve pence on every person above fifteen years of age was imposed—the heaviest tax that had hitherto been demanded. The patience of the people was quite worn out.

3. The common people were restless and discontented, nor were they without some good reason for being so. Most of them were still serfs, that is, they were bought and sold with the land, just as sheep and horses were, and had not the rights of free men. A law had been passed forbidding them to leave their masters in search of higher wages. In such a state of affairs, a small matter sufficed to kindle a great rebellion.

4. At Dartford, a town in Kent, lived a man who, from his occupation, was known by the name of Wat Tyler. This town was visited by the tax-gatherers, one of whom grievously insulted Wat's daughter, upon which the angry father, raising his hammer, killed the rude fellow on the spot. This action was applauded by the people, who praised the courage of the tiler, and at once made him their leader. The rebellion was begun. 1381 A.D.

5. From all the country round, the peasants flocked to join the rebel band; and they resolved to march on London, to lay their grievances before the king. In a short time, it is said the host amounted to 100,000 men. The palace of the Savoy (which belonged to John of Gaunt, the king's uncle), the New Inn of the lawyers at the Temple, and the houses of the foreign merchants, were burned down. Yet, amid these deeds of violence, the men showed

that they were not seeking for plunder, but for justice. They caught one of their number in the act of carrying off a silver vessel from the Savoy Palace, and flung the thief with his spoil into the flames.

6. The young king with his council took refuge in the Tower. By promising freedom and a complete pardon to one body of the rebels, he persuaded them to return home. But on the following day the men of Kent, bursting into the Tower, which the king had only just left, put to death the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a merchant who had been appointed to collect the hated poll-tax.

7. In the meantime, the king accidentally met Wat Tyler in Smithfield, surrounded by a body of 30,000 men. The peasant leader advanced to confer with the king—the first time in English history that the peasant-class had come face to face with their sovereign. Angry words arose, and a threat from Tyler induced William Walworth, Lord Mayor of London, to strike him down with his dagger, when he was speedily killed.

8. For a moment the rebels were awed. Then they shouted, 'They have slain our captain; let us slay the whole!' It was an anxious moment. The crowd were bending their bows, when the king promptly rode up to them, saying, 'Sirs, what would you? This was but a traitor. It is I who am your leader: follow me!' He made the same promises of freedom and a full pardon as he had already given to the other body, and the men of Kent *returned to* their homes.

9. The promises thus bravely made by the young king were shamefully broken. The insurrection was put down with cruel bloodshed; but it did its work. Though no special law was passed releasing men from their state of serfdom, yet it received its death-blow, and after the Peasant Rising it began gradually but surely to die out.

peas'-ant, a working-man in the country.
ex-trav'-a-gance, expensive living.
tax-a'-tion, money paid to the king or state.
dis-con-tent'-ed, ill-pleased.
suf-ficed', was enough.
re-bel'-lion, a rising against the king or government.
oc-cu-pa'-tion, work.
ap-plaud'-ed, praised.
griev'-an-ces, complaints.
coun'-cil, advisers.
ac-ci-dent'-al-ly, by chance.
con-fer' with, speak to.
sov'-er-eign, king or queen.
in-duced', led, caused.
awed, struck with fear.
prompt'-ly, at once.
trai'-tor, one who acts falsely, especially to his country.
in-sur-rec'-tion, a rising against the government.
re-leas'-ing, freeing.

A **poll-tax** was a tax taken by the poll or head; that is, it was paid by each person. In this case it had to be paid for every one above fifteen years of age.

LESSON V.

Wicliffe and Chaucer.

1. In the fourteenth century the peasantry were not the only discontented class. There was general dissatisfaction with church matters. Many of the clergy were not doing their duty, and the people began more and more to see how unfit they were for their great work.

2. This discontent found a spokesman in John Wicliffe, a learned Oxford scholar and teacher. He

attacked the wealth and greed of the clergy, and was supported by many great and noble friends, especially by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, uncle of the king. In a few years afterwards he began to attack the doctrines of the church. Although his opinions were condemned by the bishops, and he was sometimes placed in positions of danger, yet he was allowed to spend the remainder of his life in peace in the obscure parish of Lutterworth in Leicestershire, where he died on the last day of 1384.

3. He has left behind one work that will never die —the whole Bible translated from the Latin by himself and some learned friends. By this work Wicliffe has earned the title of the father of our English prose.

4. The movement thus begun did not end with Wicliffe's death. His followers, who were called Lollards, were very active in speaking severely against the abuses in the church, and against what they believed to be its false doctrines. Many among the higher classes favoured them, and even Richard's first wife, Queen Anne of Bohemia, is said to have been inclined towards their views.

5. In spite of all the protests and laws that were passed from time to time, the pope persisted in appointing foreigners to the highest posts in the English church, which made people all the more willing to listen to the teachings of the Lollards. The English people disliked this interference of the *pope,* and they made a law forbidding any one from *bringing into* the kingdom any of his decrees under

pain of forfeiture of his own goods, and the loss of the king's protection.

6. Several years after this, when Richard's cousin, Henry IV., son of John of Gaunt, succeeded to the throne, he soon showed that the Lollards must expect no favour from him, although Wicliffe had been protected by his father. In 1401 a cruel law was passed, to the effect that men who were found guilty of differing from the doctrines of the church, might be burned alive. The first man who was put to this shameful torture was William Sawtree. The leader of the Lollards, Sir John Oldcastle, after many escapes and adventures, was hanged and burned in the reign of Henry V. The Lollards' Tower in Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, still remains as a sad but interesting memorial of the Lollards of old.

7. At this time lived our first great national poet —Geoffrey Chaucer. He was born about 1340, and died in 1400. His great poem, called the *Canterbury Tales*, represents the brighter and more joyous life of the time. Thirty travellers, gathered from every class and every calling, are supposed to meet at the *Tabard* Inn in Southwark, all bound, in the early months of spring, to the shrine of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. As they journey along the road, they amuse themselves by telling tales. These tales present a charming picture of the habits and feelings of the fourteenth century.

8. Death seems to have overtaken the poet before his work was complete, as there are only twenty-four

stories. Soon after his death, troubled times came upon England, and for a long period no other

Chaucer.

English writer of importance appeared. Chaucer is called the father of English poetry, as Wicliffe is of prose.

dis-sat-is-fac'-tion, grumbling.
doc'-trines, teaching.
con-demned', judged to be wrong.
re-main'-der, rest.
ob-scure', little known.
trans-lat'-ed, turned from one language into another.
per-sist'-ed, went on doing.
in-ter-fer'-ence, meddling.
for'-feit-ure, losing.
tor'-ture, severe pain.
ad-ven'-tures, risks, daring attempts.
na'-tion-al, belonging to the whole nation.
re-pre-sents', sets forth.
shrine, sacred place.

LESSON VI.

Social Condition during the Fourteenth Century.

1. Amid the misery and bloodshed caused by the French wars, it is some satisfaction to know that they helped to produce one lasting good effect. They bound the English nation together as one man. The races of Norman and Saxon forgot their differences, and learned to glory in the common name of Englishmen. They had marched, and fought, and won side by side, and all classes felt a common pride in the country which could send forth such brave men.

2. As a proof of this, a celebrated statute was passed, ordering that the proceedings in the law courts should be conducted in English, instead of French, as had hitherto been the case. French, the language spoken by the Norman conquerors, had almost gone out of use. **1362 A.D.**

3. Though there was great dissatisfaction with the clergy generally, we must not forget that there were many earnest men who faithfully served God and the church. Chaucer himself has given us a picture of a 'poor parson of the town,' which must have been drawn from real life, revealing a simple, earnest faith, a noble devotion to duty, and a bright Christian example of surpassing sweetness.

4. Among the higher ranks of the clergy, there were those who, amid special temptations, never forgot their sacred calling as ministers of God. Such a man was William of Wykeham, architect

of Windsor Castle, twice Lord Chancellor of England, and for more than thirty years Bishop of Winchester. He was a man of the purest and most honourable life, who had risen from a humble rank by his own industry and integrity. So free from reproach was he, that it was said his enemies in attacking him were 'trying to find a knot in a rush.' In honour or in disgrace, he never neglected the claims or the duties of his sacred office.

5. To him England owes her oldest public school at Winchester, which still holds a high place among the vast number of similar schools that have been established since his days. New College, Oxford, honours him as her founder. The effigy of the bishop is still an object of the greatest interest to the many who visit his noble cathedral at Winchester. Amid all the changes of five eventful centuries, the foundations of this great and good man are still flourishing in our midst, and though

> Nations and kings and reverend laws have melted like a dream,
> Yet Wykeham's works are green and fresh beside the crystal stream.

6. During this period the trade of England greatly increased. Our commerce with Flanders, to which our wool was sent to be made into cloth, was of the highest importance. Our Baltic trade was also considerable; and it was through it that the furs so extensively worn at that time were obtained. Internal traffic was carried on chiefly at the large fairs. One of these, held every September at Stourbridge *in Worcestershire*, lasted for three weeks.

7. Early hours were kept then. We read of persons being laughed at because they were found in bed at six o'clock. Nine o'clock in the morning was the usual hour for dinner. Forks and plates were unknown. Fingers had to serve for forks; and for plates, a large slice of bread was placed between each *couple* of guests, on which meat or fish enough for the two was laid. Of course there was nothing to hinder the gravy running through on the table-cloth; and the fingers of the guests must have presented a very unsightly appearance before the meal was done. It is a comfort to know that water and napkins were supplied both before and after dinner.

8. The evening meal was at five o'clock, after which the family usually went to bed. One reason for this was, that candles were very expensive, tallow being twopence a pound—a very high price in those days. Wheat was cheap, one penny purchasing six pounds. Beef and mutton did not cost more than a farthing a pound, and butter and cheese about a halfpenny. At the same time it must be remembered that before the Black Death wages were usually threepence a day. As that plague cut off vast numbers of labourers, it is probable that after that terrible visitation, wages would be somewhat higher.

9. In the great dining-hall all the members of the household still dined together; but among the higher ranks, the lord with his family and guests sat apart at a raised table called the dais. There were no chimneys; glass windows were unknown except in royal palaces, and not always there. Much as we

may praise the 'good old times,' we may at least be thankful for the greater domestic comforts of the nineteenth century.

pro-duce', bring forth, cause.
cel'-e-brat-ed, famous.
stat'-ute, law.
pro-ceed'-ings, business.
con-duct'-ed, carried on.
re-veal'-ing, showing, making known.
de-vo'-tion to, love for.
sur-pass'-ing, having no equal.
spe'-cial, more than common.
ar'-chi-tect, one who makes plans for the building of houses.
es-tab'-lished, set up.
ef'-fi-gy, likeness of a person.
cath-e'-dral, the chief church in a bishopric.
crys'-tal, clear.
con-sid'-er-a-ble, rather great.
in-ter'-nal, at home.
traf'-fic, trade.
pre-sent'-ed, offered.
un-sight'-ly, not fit to be seen.
pur'-chas-ing, buying.
do-mes'-tic, at home.

LESSON VII.

Downfall of Richard II.

1. After having long been controlled by his uncles, especially the Duke of Gloucester, Richard showed an unexpected decision of character. In a great council held in 1389, he suddenly asked his uncle, 'How old do you think I am?' 'Your highness,' replied Gloucester, 'is in your twenty-second year.' 'Then,' added the king, 'I am surely of age to manage my own affairs. I have been longer under the control of guardians than any ward in my dominions. I thank ye, my lords, for your past services, but I want them no longer.' Accordingly, to the confusion and astonishment of Gloucester, Richard took the reins of government into his own hands.

2. After ruling extremely well for some years, *Richard adopted* measures which lost him the love

of his subjects, and caused his downfall. He was suspected of having commanded his uncle Gloucester to be murdered. His government became very tyrannical; and he offended almost all classes of the people.

3. The king's cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, eldest son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, helped the king in his designs, and was created Duke of Hereford as a reward for his services. Shortly afterwards, this nobleman had a quarrel with the Duke of Norfolk, and challenged him to combat. They met at Coventry. The king himself was present, and so great was the excitement, that he is said to have had 10,000 persons in arms to keep the peace. But after all the usual formalities had been gone through, and the combat was about to commence, the king suddenly stopped the proceedings, giving orders that Norfolk should be banished for life, and Hereford for ten years.

4. The sentence upon Hereford was reduced to six years before he left the country; Norfolk never saw his native land again. After a time, John of Gaunt died, leaving to his son large estates, as well as the title of Duke of Lancaster. The king was sorely in need of money, and the temptation was too strong for him. He seized the property of the late duke, and claimed it as his own.

5. But during the king's absence in Ireland, Lancaster, burning with a double sense of wrong at his cruel banishment and the unjust robbery of his father's estates, landed at Ravenspur in Yorkshire, with a small band of fol- 1399 A.D.

lowers. Being joined by some of the leading nobles, he soon made himself master of the kingdom.

6. Returning in haste from Ireland, the king was taken prisoner in North Wales. He was conveyed to London, and compelled to resign his crown, and Henry of Lancaster claimed the vacant throne under the title of Henry IV. The unhappy Richard was confined in Pontefract Castle in Yorkshire. Early in the following year the report spread that he was dead. At the time, rumours went abroad that he had died of starvation or by violence; but the exact mode of his death was never known.

7. During the reign of Richard was fought the

Chevy Chase.

battle of Otterburn, so famous in song under the *name of Chevy* Chase. It was one of the many

border frays in which Douglas and Percy encountered each other, and was almost equally fatal to both sides. Douglas was slain; while the English were forced to quit the field, leaving their leader, Lord Percy, and his brother in the hands of the enemy.

con-trolled', held in check, led.
de-cis'-ion of char'-ac-ter, firmness; a will of his own.
ward, a young person still under guardians.
gov'-ern-ment, rule.
ex-treme'-ly, very.
a-dopt'-ed, took, made his own.
ty-ran'-nic-al, very harsh, severe.
cre-at'-ed, made.
chal'-lenged, called upon to fight.
com'-bat, a fight.
for-mal'-i-ties, forms, ceremonies.
pro-ceed'-ings, goings on, business.
ex'-iled, banished.
con-veyed', brought.
re-sign', give up.
va'-cant, empty.
ru'-mours, common reports.
fray, a fight.
en-coun'-ter, meet.

The Douglases were powerful noblemen on the Scottish side of the Borders. They fought many battles with the Earls of Northumberland, whose name was Percy.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER, 1399–1461.

LESSON VIII.

Henry IV., 1399—1413 A.D.

1. The victory of Henry IV. had been a very easy one. Three small vessels brought him and all his followers to Ravenspur. He was received with a general welcome; no hand was lifted against him; nobles and commons thronged to his side. At first, all he wanted, he said, was to get possession of his father's estates. But he soon made larger demands, and before long he had possession of the crown.

2. Henry, however, could not be regarded as the true heir to the crown; for while his father was only the *fourth* son of Edward III., there lived one Edmund Mortimer, who was descended from Edward's *third* son. But Mortimer was a boy, only six years old, and could for the present at least be safely set aside. But in after-years great trouble and sorrow came to England from this source.

3. The wearing of a crown brought little rest or peace to Henry. The friends of Richard rose in arms to revenge their late master. In Wales also a serious rebellion broke out, headed by a gentleman named Owen Glendower. Glendower claimed to be descended from the old princes of Wales, and aimed at restoring the ancient sovereignty of his country, which had been extinguished by the strong arm of Edward I. His skill in war, his great learning, and above all, his strange reputation as a magician, made him an object of fear and veneration in Wales. Multitudes, among whom were the Welsh students from the universities of England, crowded round his banner.

4. This rebellion proved a long and dangerous one. King Henry made several expeditions into Wales, but without success. Glendower also found a most powerful ally in an unexpected quarter. This was Lord Percy, better known by his nickname of Hotspur, the brave and headstrong son of the Earl of Northumberland. Percy was offended at the conduct of Henry, and determined to join Owen Glendower.

5. Earl Douglas, the most powerful nobleman in *Scotland, also* joined the rebellion, and a fierce battle

was fought near Shrewsbury, in which Hotspur was killed and Douglas taken prisoner. Glendower, however, continued to carry on the war until his death, the manner and place of which are unknown. Two caves—one in Merionethshire, and the other in Carnarvon—known as Owen's caves, are said to have served as places of refuge during the latter part of his life. 1403 A.D.

6. The Earl of Northumberland, assisted by Scroop, Archbishop of York, next broke out into rebellion. The earl fell in battle. The warlike archbishop was beheaded, and was revered by the people as a saint and martyr.

7. About this time, James, eldest son of the king of Scotland, was taken captive at sea, and brought to Henry, though there was a truce between the two countries. The boy was only nine years old, and he was kept in England eighteen years. He was well treated and carefully educated, and returning to his native country, became a most learned and accomplished king.

8. Repeated troubles wore out King Henry's health at an early age. He died in his forty-sixth year, having reigned fourteen years. He had already outlived the popularity which he enjoyed when he first became king; but it is a proof of his skill that he was able to keep his throne amid all the disturbances and rebellions of his reign.

9. In this reign lived the celebrated Richard Whittington, a great merchant, who was thrice Lord Mayor of London. Whittington had a remarkable career, and was a very wealthy man. On one

occasion, we are told, he entertained Henry V. and his queen at a splendid banquet, at which the fires were fed with cedar and perfumed wood. When the queen spoke of this costly firewood, the generous Lord Mayor offered to supply fuel still more costly. Thus saying, he threw into the fire bonds for sixty thousand pounds which the king owed him, a sum equal to more than a million pounds at the present day.

pos-ses'-sion, hold.
re-bell'-ion, revolt.
sov'-er-eign-ty, kingdom.
ex-tin'-guished, put an end to.
re-pu-ta'-tion, fame.
ma-gi'-cian, one who pretended to call up spirits and other wonderful things.
ven-er-a'-tion, deep regard, fear.
al'-ly, helper in war.
con'-duct, behaviour.
truce, a short peace.
ed'-u-cat-ed, taught, trained.
ac-com'-plished, clever.
pop-u-lar'-i-ty, love of the people for him.
dis-turb'-an-ces, troubles.
cel'-e-brat-ed, famous.
ban'-quet, great feast.
per-fumed', scented.

When a man borrows money from any one, a paper is written out as an acknowledgment of the debt. This paper is called a **bond.**

LESSON IX.

HENRY V., 1413–1422 A.D.

Agincourt.

1. As we have seen, the reign of Henry IV. was an unquiet and anxious one. Not the least of the troubles of the king were owing to his own son, who spent a wild and thoughtless life with his boon companions.

2. *Yet the* young Henry was of a brave and

generous disposition. At the battle of Shrewsbury, and in the war against Glendower, he distinguished himself greatly. And he was so great a favourite with the people, that even his own father became jealous of him.

3. When twenty-six years of age, the young prince ascended the throne as Henry V. His first steps showed the real nobleness of his nature, hidden but not destroyed by youthful frolics and follies. He put Edmund Mortimer, now Earl of March, into possession of all his lands. He retained his father's advisers, and dismissed from the court the wild companions of his early days. He seems also to have paid regard to his religious duties.

4. Henry, however, could not escape the warlike feeling of the time. In those days, when the home could not be made bright and interesting by books and newspapers, when the comforts now found in a cottage were unknown in the palace, when education was confined to but a few beyond the clergyman and the monk, war was a passion and a delight.

5. The state of France at that time was very sad. Its king was insane. The country was divided into two hostile parties, which had an intense hatred for each other, and little thought of defending their country against a foreign enemy. The temptation was too strong for Henry, and he suddenly revived the claim made by Edward III. to the crown of France. If Edward's claim was a bad one, Henry's was much worse, as Henry V. was not in any sense the heir of Edward III. But that did not matter. The war pleased his subjects, who had

not forgotten the glorious victories of Cressy and Poitiers, and the spoil which they had carried home from France.

6. Henry was ready to embark at Southampton, when a plot to deprive him of the crown was discovered. The plan was to put young Edmund Mortimer, the Earl of March, upon the throne. It is said that Edmund Mortimer himself told the king of the plot. If this is true, it was a fitting reward for Henry's generous treatment of Edmund. For their part in this conspiracy, two noblemen were put to death, one of whom, the Earl of Cambridge, was a relation of the king's.

7. The great event of Henry's campaign in France was the battle of Agincourt. After taking Harfleur, he decided on making the long and difficult march to Calais. On the way, he was overtaken at Agincourt by the French king at the head of an army six times as large as his own; but in spite of such fearful odds, the French were completely defeated.

1415 A.D.

8. It was indeed a great victory, though won *in an unjust* cause, and tarnished with deeds of

cruelty. The English nation was mad with joy. When Henry landed shortly afterwards at Dover, the

Triumphal Entry of Henry V. into London.

people rushed into the sea to carry the conqueror-king in their arms from the ship to shore. Henry and his army made a triumphal entry into London, followed by their French prisoners.

9. Shortly afterwards the French purchased peace by the celebrated treaty of Troyes. By this treaty, Henry was to be regent of France; to marry the Princess Catharine, daughter of the French king, and at her father's death to become king of France. But now, when he was at the very height of earthly glory, and when he seemed to have gained all that his heart could wish, his career was abruptly stopped. He was only thirty-four years of age when he was laid low by illness, and died leaving a son scarcely nine months old. **1420 A.D.**

boon, gay.
dis-po-si'-tion, bent of the mind.
dis-tin'-guished him-self', made himself famous.
jeal'-ous, envious.
frol'-ics, fun.
re-tained', kept.
dis-missed', sent away.
in-sane', wrong in his mind.
in-tense', very great.
re-vived', brought up again.
em-bark', go into a ship.
dis-cov'-ered, found out.
con-spir'-a-cy, plot.
cam-paign', time during which an army keeps the field.
tar'-nished, soiled, stained.
treat'-y, agreement between different countries.
re'-gent, one who rules in place of a king or queen.
car-eer', course, life.

LESSON X.

Henry the Fifth and Agincourt.

Westmoreland. O! that we now had here
But one ten thousand of those men in England
That do no work to-day!
King Henry. What 's he that wishes so?
My cousin Westmoreland?—No, my fair cousin:
If we are mark'd to die, we are enow
To do our country loss; and if to live,
The fewer men the greater share of honour.
O, do not wish one more!
Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, thro' my host,
That he, which hath no stomach to this fight,
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,
And crowns for convoy put into his purse:
We would not die in that man's company,
That fears his fellowship to die with us.
This day is call'd the feast of Crispian:
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is named,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day, and see old age,

Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
And say, 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian:'
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,
And say, 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he 'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day: then shall our names,
Familiar in his mouth as household words—
Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster—
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition:
And gentlemen in England now abed
Shall think themselves accurst they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Shakspeare.

e-now', enough.
pro-claim', make known to everybody.
stom'-ach, wish, liking.
con'-voy, taking him home.
vig'-il, evening before a feast or holiday.
feats, great deeds.
gen'-tle, make gentle.

Crispin and **Crispian** were two saints who suffered martyrdom. Their employment was shoemaking, and thus they became the patron saints of shoemakers.

LESSON XI.

Joan of Arc.

1. The king of France died soon after Henry; and then, according to the treaty of Troyes, the baby Henry VI. was king both of France and England. The real ruler was the Duke of Bedford, uncle of the baby king, who held the titles of Protector of England and Regent of France.

2. The English were determined to secure and extend their conquests in France, and for years they did not meet with very formidable opposition. Of course the eldest son of Charles VI., who was termed the Dauphin, maintained his right to his father's throne; but he was indolent and fond of pleasure, and the whole country was in disorder. The English gained one success after another, until nearly the whole of France north of the Loire fell into their hands.

3. The only important exception was the town of Orleans; and even this was besieged by the English. It was on the point of yielding, when deliverance appeared from a most unexpected quarter.

4. In a fair and fertile valley on the extreme east of France lay the small village of Domremy, where lived a young maid—a devout and dutiful girl, doing her daily work in the house, and then hastening to the church to pray. This girl believed that she heard voices from heaven calling upon her to deliver her wretched country from its enemies. To her, these voices were real and divine, laying upon her a *duty which* she dare not shrink from, however full

of peril and suffering it might prove. This humble village maiden became famous as Joan of Arc.

5. In time some of her neighbours began to believe her accounts of the voices which she heard. She was taken to the governor of the chief town in her district, who, after many delays, sent her to the Dauphin. Attended by a small guard, the brave but modest girl set out on her perilous journey, much of it through districts in possession of the English, and at last reached the court of the Dauphin. After more delays and inquiries, she was admitted to his presence, when she delivered her simple message, 'I am Joan the maid, sent by God to save France;' and she asked for troops that she might go to the relief of Orleans. 1429 A.D.

6. In the April of that year she made her way, with a small body of men, into Orleans, and in a few days she compelled the English to raise the siege, and Orleans was saved. The pious maid who had led the people to victory, now led them in joy to the cathedral, to return thanks to the God who had raised up such a champion. But her work was not yet done. She followed the retreating English, and defeated some of their best commanders.

7. But the great task remained of bringing Charles to Rheims, that he might be crowned, and so become the real king of France. This too she accomplished. Difficulties seemed to vanish at her approach, and in July, Charles was crowned, while Joan stood by his side.

8. Better would it have been if the maid had now returned, as she longed to do, to her humble

village home, and her quiet daily task; but the king would not permit her. In the next year, however, she was taken by the English, and brought to Rouen. There she was charged by them with witchcraft and disobedience to the church, and after a protracted trial, during which the poor girl was made to submit to the most cruel indignities, she was condemned and burned alive.

1431 A.D.

9. Bedford tarnished his honoured name by hurrying the poor girl to the stake, and Charles, who owed his all to her, stirred not a step to save her. Her name stands out bright and unsullied amid the confusion and disgrace of the time. Years afterwards, a careful public inquiry was made into the events with which she had been connected; the purity of her character was proved, and a stone cross was erected at Rouen on the site of her martyrdom.

10. The English power in France never recovered from the disasters brought upon them by the heroic maid. In 1453, the last battle was fought, and the last defeat sustained, at Castillon, and the hundred years' war was over. Calais was all that was left to the English to remind them of the glories of Cressy, of Poitiers, and of Agincourt.

se-cure', make sure of.
ex-tend', make greater.
con'-quests, things won.
for'-mi-da-ble, to be feared.
main-tained', stood up for.
in'-do-lent, lazy.
ex-cep'-tion, thing not like the rest.
de-liv'-er-ance, a freeing, saving.
shrink, *draw back* (in fear).
per'-il-ous, dangerous.
cham'-pi-on, a victorious fighter.
van'-ish, go out of sight.
witch'-craft, belief in witches.
pro-tract'-ed, long.
in-dig'-ni-ties, insults.
un-sul'-lied, without a stain.
site, place.
mar'-tyr-dom, death for a great and true cause.

LESSON XII.

HENRY VI., 1422–1461 A.D.

The Wars of the Roses.

1. After losing almost all her possessions in France, England was now destined to pass through a long period of war and confusion at home. The nobles were turbulent; and the young king, Henry VI., proved to be a man of feeble character, quite unfit to control them. In the course of time, too, he was afflicted with a severe malady, which rendered him totally unfit for any kind of business.

2. During the illness of the king, two rival noblemen, the Duke of Somerset, and Richard, Duke of York, contended for the possession of power. The former was favoured by the queen and the court; but the *latter had* greater influence in the country,

and after sending Somerset to the Tower, obtained the high office of Protector.

Map to illustrate the Wars of the Roses.

3. Before long, however, the king recovered; Somerset was set at liberty, and the strife between the nobles raged more furiously than ever, till it resulted in open war. At St Albans was fought the first battle in that civil war which lasted thirty years, and which is known as the Wars of the Roses. 1455 A.D.

4. There is a story told in one of the plays of Shakspeare, which professes to explain why the Wars of the Roses were so called. One day a number of the contentious nobles met in a garden. The Duke of York, who was among them, declared that he had a better right than Henry to the crown of England; and plucking a white rose from a bush, called on all who acknowledged his claim to follow his example. Somerset, who was a friend of the house of Lancaster, chose a red rose as the symbol of his cause. Thus the white rose became the badge of the House of York, and the red rose the badge of the House of Lancaster; and hence the long and terrible war which they waged against each other was called the Wars of the Roses.

5. But on what ground did the Duke of York lay claim to the English throne? When Henry IV. ascended the throne, there was a boy, Edmund Mortimer, who, as we saw, had a better claim to the crown than Henry. That boy had no children, but he had a nephew who grew up to be an able and energetic man, and who was now the Duke of York. Thus, while the Duke of York could trace his descent to the third son of Edward III., Henry VI. sprung only from the fourth son of the same Edward.

6. The Yorkists were victorious in the battle just mentioned at St Albans, as they generally were during the war. After another victory at Northampton, in which King Henry was taken prisoner, Richard formally claimed the crown. It was arranged that Henry should keep the name and title of king as long as he lived, and that the Duke of York should succeed him. Henry was glad enough to consent to this arrangement, if only peace could be secured, and the bloodshed stopped. But his queen, Margaret of Anjou, a brave and high-spirited woman, who was determined to fight for the rights of her only son, would not listen to such a plan.

7. Then followed the battle of Wakefield, in which the Yorkists suffered a crushing defeat, and Richard, Duke of York, was slain. A story is told, that Lord Clifford, by whose hands he fell, presented the head of the fallen duke to the queen, with the words: 'Madam, your war is done; here is your king's ransom.' After the battle, the same Clifford met the Earl of Rutland, the youthful son of the Duke of York, and in spite of his entreaties, cruelly put him to death; a shameful deed, which turned away the hearts of the people from the House of Lancaster. The head of the Duke of York, crowned with a paper crown, was stuck upon the walls of the city of York, next to that of Richard, Earl of Salisbury, who had been taken prisoner and beheaded.

8. Edward, eldest son of Richard, Duke of York, now took his father's title, and asserted his claim to the crown. He was young, brave, and handsome. *The people* hoped that if he could secure the crown,

the cruel war might come to an end. Queen Margaret could not stand against him, and amid the cries of the people of London shouting 'Long live King Edward!' he ascended the throne as Edward IV. 1461 A.D.

turb'-u-lent, disorderly, quarrelsome.
fee'-ble, weak.
af-flict'-ed, troubled.
mal'-a-dy, illness.
riv'-al, opponent.
con-tend'-ed, disputed.
in'-flu-ence, power.
re-sult'-ed, ended.
con-ten'-tious, quarrelsome.
ac-know'-ledged, owned.
sym'-bol, sign, mark.
badge, mark or sign.
ar-ranged', settled.
en-trea'-ties, prayers.

HOUSE OF YORK, 1461–1485 A.D.

LESSON XIII.

Edward IV., 1461—1483 A.D.

1. Edward's noble bearing and handsome face, joined with his frank and open conduct, won the hearts of all who approached him. Though only twenty years of age, he gave such proofs of his ability and energy, as to encourage the hope that under his rule, peace might be quickly restored to the bleeding and distracted land.

2. The frightful war, however, was not yet ended. As the people of the northern and midland counties still continued to give their support to the dethroned Henry, Edward hastened into the north to meet the Lancastrian leaders. The opposing

forces met at Towton, near Tadcaster in Yorkshire, where, on Palm Sunday, 1461, in the midst of a severe snow-storm, the bloodiest battle that had ever taken place on English soil was fought. The snow beat full in the faces of the Lancastrian army, and after a brave resistance, they were compelled to give way. No quarter was given on that terrible day. Twenty-eight thousand Lancastrians are said to have perished, of whom many were driven into an adjoining river, and drowned.

3. Edward would probably have had no more fighting to do, had he not given offence to his great friend the Earl of Warwick, by his secret marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Rivers. After this marriage, honours were heaped upon the relatives of the queen, and thus the jealousy of the Earl of Warwick was excited. The earl repaired to France, where shortly afterwards he openly changed sides, by joining the high-spirited Margaret, wife of the deposed Henry VI.

4. Warwick was the owner of vast estates, and could bring into the field a larger army of retainers and vassals than any other nobleman in England. 'When he came to London,' we are told, 'he held such an house, that six oxen were eaten at a breakfast, and every tavern was full of his meat; for he who had any acquaintance in that house, he should have as much boiled and roast as he might carry on a long dagger.'

5. So great was his power, that on his return to England, Edward could make no resistance, and *was obliged* to leave the country in haste. Thus

within twenty days of his landing, Warwick was master of the whole kingdom. His name has become famous in history as 'the King-maker.' Henry was brought from the cell in the Tower, where for six years he had spent his time in devotion and quiet recreation with his books and birds, and called for a short season to wear his crown again. But Edward soon returned from abroad, and meeting Warwick at Barnet, near London, he gained a great victory over the Lancastrians, leaving the great King-maker himself among the slain.

6. On the same day that Warwick fell at Barnet, Margaret, with her only son, the Prince of Wales, landed at Weymouth. Still hoping to find friends, she advanced with her army; but within a few days she was overtaken by King Edward at Tewkesbury, where her forces were totally defeated, and she and her son were taken prisoners. When the brave and beautiful prince, who was now only eighteen years of age, was brought before the king, the latter cried out: 'What brought you to England?' 'My father's crown and mine own inheritance,' the prince courageously answered. Thereupon the king struck him on the face with his gauntlet; the soldiers standing by then attacked him with their swords, and soon the prince lay slain within the royal tent.

7. Edward now returned to London, and on the following day the deposed King Henry died in his prison within the Tower. The manner of his death was never known. Queen Margaret remained a prisoner in England for a few years, and then was permitted to return to France, her own country.

From this time, Edward's reign was undisturbed by civil war. Though his pleasant manners seem to have made him popular, his character was sadly disgraced by cruel selfishness and love of pleasure. He died at an early age in 1483, worn out by excessive self-indulgence.

en'-er-gy, activity.
dis-tract'-ed, troubled.
quar'-ter, mercy to the conquered.
ad-join'-ing, near.
re-paired', went.
re-tain'-ers, followers.
de-vo'-tion, piety.
re-cre-a'-tion, amusement.
gaunt'-let, an iron glove worn by a warrior in olden times.
de-posed', made to give up a crown.
ex-ces'-sive, too great.

LESSON XIV.

Introduction of Printing into England, 1476 A.D.

1. During the reign of Edward IV., one of the most important events in English history silently took place—the introduction of printing into this country. The honour of introducing it belongs to William Caxton, a native of Kent.

2. Caxton spent many years of his life in Flanders as governor of the English guild of merchant adventurers, where, amid his varied occupations, he contrived to find time to devote to books. During his residence in Flanders he entered the household of the Duchess of Burgundy, sister of Edward IV., where he probably acted as copyist, that is, he wrote out books for the library of the Duchess.

3. *Before* the invention of printing, every book

had to be written by hand. Many of the monks in the monasteries and in connection with the cathedrals were constantly engaged in the work of copying; and manuscripts of exquisite beauty are still to be seen, written many hundreds of years ago, but as bright and clear now as when fresh from the writers' hands. The labour of producing a book was very great, and made books so expensive that only the very wealthy could afford to have any. We are told that a copy of the Bible cost from £40 to £60 for the writing only, for it took a clever copyist about ten months' labour to make one.

4. The most valuable writings of antiquity and of the middle ages were thus handed down by the careful industry of these monks, who pursued their work in the silent retreats of the monasteries, while the noise and tumult of wars and rebellions were going on outside. In the rooms set apart for this work, no conversation was allowed, and each made known his wants by signs.

5. The Duke of Burgundy, who had died before Caxton entered the household, was a great lover of books. In his library, upwards of two thousand works, each written out with great care and skill, were collected, the greater part of them being magnificent volumes, beautifully illuminated, and bound in velvet, satin, or damask, studded with gems, and fastened by gold clasps. Many of these splendid manuscripts are still preserved in the Royal Library at Brussels.

6. When Caxton entered the service of the Duchess of Burgundy, the art of printing had been

known on the continent for several years. In the very town of Flanders where he lived, one of the masters of the new art had set up a printing-press, which in these early times was worked by the hand. Caxton must frequently have gone to see this wonderful thing at work, and to learn its secret. He tells us his pen was worn, his hand was weary, and his eyes dimmed with over-much looking on

Caxton's Printing Office.

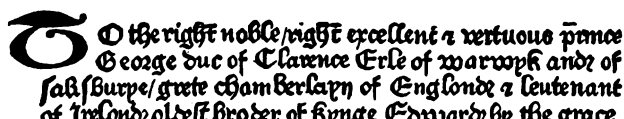
white paper; we cannot doubt that he was right glad to avail himself of the wondrous help afforded him by the noble discovery.

7. Early in 1476, Caxton returned to England, and set up the first printing-press in the Almonry at *Westminster*. The Almonry was a space in the

abbey where alms were distributed to the poor. Here he worked hard, not only as a printer, but as a translator, to the end of his life. More than four thousand of his printed pages are from works that he himself translated. King Edward showed great interest in his work.

8. When Caxton died, he left behind him a glorious legacy in the printing-press, which has done so much to improve and gladden the lives and homes of Englishmen of every class. Though the deeds of princes and warriors may be forgotten, the name of Caxton will be held in honour, as one of those who have done greatest service to their fellow-men.

in-tro-duc'-tion, a bringing in.
guild, company of merchants or tradesmen.
ad-ven'-tu-rers, men who engage in enterprises.
man'-u-scripts, books written with the hand.
ex'-quis-ite, very fine.
an-ti'-qui-ty, ancient times.
tu'-mult, confusion.
con-ver-sa'-tion, talk.
mag-ni'-fi-cent, very grand.
vol'-umes, books.
il-lu'-min-at-ed, with words painted in fine colours.
dam'-ask, fine cloth with pretty figures wrought in it.
a-vail' himself, make use.
af-ford'-ed, given.
dis-cov'-er-y, a finding out.
dis-trib'-ut-ed, given out.
leg'-a-cy, thing left or handed down.


To the right noble/right excellent & vertuous prince George duc of Clarence Erle of warwyk and of Salysbury/grete chamberlayn of Englonde & lieutenant of Irelond/oldest broder of kynge Edwarde by the grace of god kynge of Englande and of fraūce/your moste humble seruant William Caxton amonge other of your seruantes sendes vnto yow peas. helthe. Joye and victorye vpon your enemyes/

Specimen of Caxton's Printing.
(Reduced to about half the original size.)

LESSON XV.

EDWARD V., RICHARD III., 1483-1485 A.D.

Battle of Bosworth.

1. Edward IV. was succeeded by his eldest son, also named Edward, a boy in his thirteenth year. He was king in name for about two months only, when his life was cruelly taken away by his own uncle. It is one of the saddest stories in English history.

2. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was the only surviving brother of the late king. As uncle to Edward V., he ought to have been his best friend and guardian; but hatred of the young king's mother, and wicked ambition, turned him into a cruel and deceitful foe. Gradually he got rid of all the king's friends, placed the helpless lad in the Tower, and in the meantime got himself appointed Protector of the kingdom. The unhappy mother was persuaded to give up her only other son, the Duke of York, to join his brother in the Tower. Neither of them ever came out again.

3. One Dr Shaw preached a sermon from a pulpit then standing outside St Paul's Cathedral, and tried to persuade the people that Edward IV. had never been lawfully married to the mother of Edward V., and, therefore, that her children were not the lawful heirs to the crown. The Duke of Buckingham also made a speech to the Londoners, showing how much stronger the claims of the Duke of Gloucester were, *than those of* the two children in the Tower.

4. A deputation next waited on Gloucester, urging him to accept the crown. He pretended to be surprised, and at first declined the offer. But he soon threw aside the mask, and ascended the throne as Richard III.

5. In the meantime, strange whispers were heard about the two young princes. Then the news spread that they were dead; but the manner of their death remained a secret for nearly twenty years, when one of their murderers confessed that they had been smothered. The part of the building where the crime was committed still retains the name of the Bloody Tower.

6. Search for their bodies was made at the time of the confession, and again in Queen Elizabeth's time. The mystery continued, however, till the reign of Charles II., when a large chest was discovered ten feet under ground, containing the bones of two children, supposed to be those of the two princes. By command of Charles, they were placed in a marble urn, among the tombs of the kings in Westminster Abbey.

7. Richard did not long wear a crown thus won by deceit and murder, for in little more than two years he lost his life in the battle of Bosworth Field. The general belief that Richard was guilty of the murder of his nephews, created a feeling of great indignation against him throughout the country. It is not therefore surprising to know that a project was formed for bringing over to England, Henry, Earl of Richmond, who, through his mother, was descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lan-

caster. Henry was at the time living in Brittany, and was regarded as the head of the House of Lancaster. There was also a plan for bringing about a marriage between him and Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV., and thus uniting the rival claims of the White and the Red Rose.

8. Henry landed at Milford-Haven, in South Wales, and advancing inland, met the army of Richard at Bosworth Field. Richard's army was nearly twice as numerous as Henry's, but there was distrust and treachery in his camp. After much hard fighting, Richard saw his cause was lost, and that his own friends were forsaking him. With determined bravery, he rushed into the midst of his enemies and was slain. His body was stripped, thrown upon a horse, carried to Leicester, and buried with little honour in the Grey Friars' Church. The crown worn by the fallen king was found in a hawthorn bush, and placed on the head of Henry by Lord Stanley.

1485 A.D.

9. Such was the death of the last of the Plantagenet kings. The cruel wars which had caused so much bloodshed and misery for thirty years were now ended. A vast number of the nobility had fallen, and their estates had been forfeited to the crown. A new race of kings ascended the throne; and the old race of fighting sovereigns and king-makers disappeared for ever from the scene of English history.

suc-ceed'-ed, followed.
sur-viv'-ing, yet living.
guard'-ian, one who takes care of *others.*
am-bi'-tion, love of power.
de-ceit'-ful, lying, false.
dep-u-ta'-tion, men appointed to meet with a great man.

pre-tend'-ed, made as if.
de-clined', refused.
mask, a thing that conceals the face; a disguise.
con-fessed', made known a secret.
com-mit'-ted, done.
re-tains', has.
mys'-ter-y, a secret; thing unknown.
urn, a kind of vase.
in-dig-na'-tion, anger.
pro'-ject, plan.
treach'-er-y, false dealing.
for'-feit-ed to, seized by.

LESSON XVI.

Richmond after Bosworth.

Richmond. God and your arms be prais'd, victorious friends;
The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.
Stanley. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou acquit thee.
Lo, here, this long usurpèd royalty
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I plucked off, to grace thy brows withal:
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.
Richm. Great God of heaven, say Amen to all!—
But, tell me, is young George Stanley living?
Stan. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town;
Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw us.
Richm. What men of name are slain on either side?
Stan. John Duke of Norfolk, Walter Lord Ferrers,
Sir Robert Brakenbury, and Sir William Brandon.
Richm. Inter their bodies as becomes their births:
Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled
That in submission will return to us:
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,
We will unite the white rose and the red:—
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity!—
What traitor hears me, and says not Amen?

England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself;
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire:
All this divided York and Lancaster,
Divided in their dire division,
O, now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royal house,
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together!
And let their heirs (God, if thy will be so)
Enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd peace,
With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days!

Shakspeare.

ac-quit' thee, behaved, fought.
with-draw' us, go away.
in-ter', bury.
sac'-ra-ment, oath.
con-junc'-tion, union.
en'-mi-ty, hatred, strife.
dire, dreadful.
suc-ceed'-ers, heirs.
or'-din-ance, law, marriage.

The bloody dog, Richard III., who was charged with murdering the two princes in the Tower, and with many other cruel deeds.

Long u-surp'-ed roy'-al-ty, the crown taken from the House of Lancaster by Edward IV. in 1461.

George Stanley, son of Lord Stanley, whom Richard had ordered to be executed because his father had joined Richmond during the battle.

LESSON XVII.

London in the Olden Time.

1. The London of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries was very different from the London of to-day. Old London covered very much the same space as the city proper does now: its streets were narrow and winding, and most of the houses were *built of wood.* It was crowded with people, was rich

and prosperous, and its citizens were distinguished for the manful upholding of their rights and liberties, as well as for their jealousy of foreigners.

2. A broad and strong wall, nearly two and a half miles in length, surrounded the city. All that is now left of this wall is the name of a street, called London Wall. There were anciently four gates; but afterwards others were added. At several of these gates, prisons were erected, the best known of which is Newgate, where many notorious criminals have been executed. It has lately ceased to be used as a prison.

3. Then, as now, Cheapside was one of the busiest and most important streets. There the principal 'chepe,' or market, was held, from which the street took its name. The stalls were daily crowded with buyers. In the olden days also there were a great many religious processions, and other shows or pageants, all of which passed down Cheapside. Here, too, prisoners were marched off, preceded by fife and drum, to a neighbouring street, called Cornhill, to be put into the pillory, which was the favourite mode of punishment for all minor offences. Rogues and impostors of all sorts, men pretending to be wounded soldiers, or quack doctors, or traders giving short weight, used to be sent to the pillory for an hour or two.

4. In Cheapside, too, the apprentices might often be seen quarrelling, brandishing staves, and sometimes even making use of their swords; it was usual then for almost everybody to wear a sword by his side. Here the great merchants, gorgeously clothed, and wealthy ladies, rustling in silk and satin, with chains of gold round their necks, took

their exercise. But there was no pavement, no lighting of lamps at night, no scavengers to clear away the filth; and, of course, there was no post-man's knock, or newspaper of any kind. Carriages were almost unknown, and such as were in use were without springs, and must have been very uncomfortable. The merchandise was generally conveyed on pack-horses.

5. The houses of the nobles and the great merchants were usually built round a square court. Outside, they were richly painted with crests and coats of arms; with their numerous gables, and their gloriously carved black timber, they looked very splendid. Inside, there was one large hall, where the sunlight fell through painted windows on rich, bright tapestry, or on sideboards laden with gold and silver plate. The other rooms were dark and low.

6. But in the midst of all this outward grandeur, there was the perpetual fear of fever and plague. Swamps lay close up to the city walls; polluted streams ran through the city; the streets were filthy, and the houses unventilated.

7. Though there were more holidays, the hours of work were much longer than they are now. It was the duty of the clerk at Bow Church, which stands in the middle of Cheapside, to ring the bell at eight o'clock in the evening, as the signal for stopping work. The apprentices were naturally very impatient to hear the welcome sound of the bell; but occasionally they found the clerk was behind time. Of course this displeased them, so they sent him the *following* warning:

Clerk of the Bow Bell,
With thy yellow locks!
For thy late ringing,
Thou shalt have knocks!

The clerk quickly sent a reply, promising to behave better in future:

Children of Chepe,
Hold you all still;
For you shall have Bow Bell
Rung at your will!

8. The leading trades of the city were formed into *guilds*, from which the great London Companies afterwards sprung, such as the Clothworkers' Company, the Goldsmiths' Company, the Merchant Taylors' Company, and others. Some of them can be traced even to the twelfth century. The Mercers' Company, to which Richard Whittington belonged, is one of the oldest and wealthiest of them. Each year, on the Company's saint's day, there was a grand procession to church, headed by clerks, choristers, and priests, chanting as they marched, and followed by all the members, from the warden or master to the serving-men, all keeping high holiday; and, after the service at church, repairing with their wives to a banquet, where, amid strains of music and songs of minstrels, the 'loving-cup' went round.

jeal'-ous-y, dislike, envy.
e-rect'-ed, set up.
no-to'-ri-ous, well known and bad.
crim'-in-als, men guilty of crime.
ex'-e-cut-ed, put to death.
pro-ces'-sion, a grand march.
pa'-geant, a grand show.
fife, a musical pipe.
im-pos'-tors, cheats.
gor'-geous-ly, very grandly.
scav'-en-ger, one who cleans the streets.
mer'-chan-dise, goods bought and sold.
pack'-hors-es, horses that carried packs or loads on their back.

ga'-bles, ends of houses.
tap'-es-try, hangings with figures wrought in them.
pol-lut'-ed, filthy.
un-ven'-ti-lat-ed, without fresh air.
oc-ca'-sion-al-ly, now and again.
chor'-is-ters, those who sing in a choir.
min'-strel, one who sang and played on the harp.

The **pil'-lor-y** consisted of a wooden frame raised on an upright pillar or post. In the frame were holes, through which the head and hands of a person were thrust as a punishment. The poor man sometimes had to stand in that posture for a long time, and was often pelted by the mob; and sometimes his ears were cut off as an additional punishment.

The **lov'-ing-cup** was a large wine-cup passed round the table from guest to guest at feasts, each in turn drinking from it. The loving-cup is still used at Lord Mayors' banquets in London.

HOUSE OF TUDOR, 1485–1603 A.D.

LESSON XVIII.

Henry VII., 1485—1509 A.D.

1. The Plantagenet kings had occupied the throne from the accession of Henry II. in 1154. In 1485, the Tudor line commenced with Henry VII., whose marriage to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV., united the White and Red Roses, and so put a stop to the civil war which had raged for thirty years.

2. On his accession, Henry sent the Earl of Warwick, a boy of fifteen, to the Tower, because, as the son of Richard III.'s brother, he had a better claim to the throne than himself. This act gave rise to one of those strange impostures that marked this reign.

3. First, there appeared in Ireland a boy named *Lambert Simnel*, who pretended to be Edward, Earl

of Warwick, and so many persons believed his story, that he was actually proclaimed in Dublin as Edward VI. Warwick was brought out of his prison in the Tower, and paraded about London, but the Irish still believed they had got the true earl. Simnel having crossed into England with a small army, was completely defeated at Stoke, near Newark, and was made a scullion in the king's kitchen.

4. Then followed a still stranger plot. A young man, whose real name is supposed to be Perkin Warbeck, appeared in Ireland in 1492, pretending to be the young Duke of York, who was supposed to have been murdered in the Tower with his brother Edward V. Perkin was a handsome lad, well educated, and so like the Duke of York, that many believed his story. He went to Flanders, where the Duchess of Burgundy, sister of Edward IV., received him warmly, calling him the White Rose of England, and treating him with every distinction.

5. In Scotland, a still greater success awaited him. James IV., the king of Scotland, not only received Perkin as the true heir to the English crown, but provided a wife for him, in his own cousin, Lady Katharine Gordon. Assisted by the Duchess of Burgundy and the king of Scotland, Perkin at last raised an army large enough to enter England, hoping that the people would rise in his favour as he advanced; but he was disappointed, and glad to return across the Border.

6. In the meantime, the people of Cornwall being much displeased at the heavy taxes they had to pay,

were ready for rebellion. Perkin determined to try his fortune among them, and gathered round his standard several thousand men, unarmed, undrilled, and almost in rags. Having advanced to Taunton, and come in sight of the royal army, he lost heart, and fled.

7. After a time he surrendered to the king's troops, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Failing in an attempt to escape, he was put into the stocks in the front of Westminster Hall, and again in Cheapside, and at each place he was compelled to read a confession, that he was no prince at all, but the son of a shopkeeper at Tournay in Flanders.

8. Perkin was afterwards found conspiring with the helpless Earl of Warwick; so the king resolved to be rid of them both. Warbeck was tried, and executed at Tyburn in 1499. Warwick, who was guilty of no crime, and had done no wrong, was beheaded on Tower Hill.

9. Henry VII. was a severe king, exceedingly fond of money, and not very nice in his methods of acquiring it. He left behind him very large treasures, of which his successor got the benefit. His reign was a turning-point in our history; for after this time the nobles had little power, and the king was supreme.

10. One of the greatest events of modern times happened during the reign of Henry VII. This was the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, who, in three small ships, granted him by the king of Spain, sailed across the *Atlantic* Ocean, and discovered the unknown countries

1492 A.D.

beyond. Not long afterwards, Sebastian Cabot, an Italian born in Bristol, made North America known to English people.

im-pos'-tures, frauds, cheats.
pre-tend'-ed, falsely claimed.
pro-claimed', made known to be king.
par-ad'-ed, shown about.
scul'-lion, a drudge in a kitchen.
dis-tinc'-tion, favour.
sur-ren'-dered, gave himself up.
con-spir'-ing, plotting.
meth'-ods, ways.
ac-quir'-ing, getting.
suc-ces'-sor, one coming after; heir.
ben'-e-fit, good.
su-preme', highest.
mod'-ern, new, recent.

The Tudor line, of which Henry VII. was the first king, was so named from Henry's father, Edmund Tudor. This Edmund Tudor was the son of Owen Tudor, a Welshman, who had married Catharine, widow of Henry V. But it was through his mother that Henry VII. drew his descent from the House of Lancaster.

LESSON XIX.

HENRY VIII., 1509–1547 A.D.

Flodden Field.

1. In 1509, Henry VII. died, and his son, Henry VIII., ascended the throne when only eighteen years old. His accession gave great joy to the people, who felt it a bright change after the gloom and severity of his father. Young Henry was a jovial king, who passed his days in a continual round of amusement, soon spending in this way the large treasures which his father had gathered together. His first wife was a Spanish princess, Catharine of Aragon, the widow of his elder brother Arthur.

2. Margaret, eldest sister of Henry VIII., had married James IV., king of Scotland. This marriage led to the union of England and Scotland a hundred

years later. In spite of this marriage, however, King James of Scotland declared war against Henry, who was absent in France. The Earl of Surrey advanced at the head of a small but well-trained army to defend the North.

3. The Scottish king was brave and gallant, but rash. Some of his older nobles tried to dissuade him from war, but he would not listen to their advice. The younger nobles, however, crowded round his banner, and with a large but ill-disciplined army, he marched southwards, crossed the Tweed, and ravaged parts of Northumberland. But hearing that Surrey was advancing to meet him, James took up a strong position on Flodden Hill, west of a small river, called the Till, which runs northward into the Tweed.

4. Surrey moved suddenly northward, as though hastening into Scotland, then turning towards the Till, he crossed it near its junction with the Tweed, and came upon the Scottish army. The Scots now set fire to their tents and the litter of their camp, and *under cover* of the smoke, descended in silence from

the slope of Flodden Edge. Their advance is thus described by Sir Walter Scott in his *Marmion:*

5. From the sharp ridges of the hill,
All downward to the banks of Till,
Was wreathed in sable smoke;
Volumed and fast, and rolling far,
The cloud enveloped Scotland's war,
As down the hill they broke;
Nor martial shout, nor minstrel tone,
Announced their march; their tread alone,
At times one warning trumpet blown,
At times a stifled hum,
Told England, from his mountain throne
King James did rushing come.—
Scarce could they hear, or see their foes,
Until at weapon-point they close.

6. At four o'clock in the afternoon the silence was broken by the firing of the cannon, and soon the battle waxed hot and furious. 1513 A.D. The result was fatal to Scotland. The flower of the Scottish nobility lay stretched on that terrible and blood-stained field. But the saddest blow of all was the death of the gallant king.

He saw the wreck his rashness wrought;
Reckless of life, he desperate fought,
And fell on Flodden plain;
And well in death his trusty brand,
Firm clenched within his manly hand,
Beseemed the monarch slain.

7. For a long time the Scots believed their king to be still alive, that he had secretly gone on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and would suddenly return. They watched and waited, but in vain. His widow, Margaret, Henry's sister, was appointed regent.

during the infancy of her son, James V., who was little more than a year old. She applied to her brother, the king of England, for peace, and her request was readily granted, as Henry felt real pity for the helpless condition of his sister and nephew.

ac-ces'-sion, coming to the throne.
jo'-vi-al, joyous, full of mirth.
treas'-ures, stores of money.
dis-suade', advise against.
dis'-ci-plined, trained to war.
po-si'-tion, post.
junc'-tion, joining.
lit'-ter, straw and the like things in a camp.
sa'-ble, black.
vol'-umed, rolling in a round form.
en-vel'-oped, covered up.
mar'-tial, warlike.
an-nounced', made known.
sti'-fled, low, suppressed.
flow'-er, the best.
reck'-less, heedless.
des'-per-ate, having given up hope.
brand, sword.
clenched, held firmly.
pil'-grim-age, journey to a holy place.
re'-gent, one who rules in place of a king or queen.

De-clared' war. When countries go to war with each other, there are certain forms by which it is made known to the world that they are going to do so. This is to *declare war.*

LESSON XX.

Cardinal Wolsey.

1. In reading about the incessant fighting which was carried on during the early periods of our history, we might be led to suppose that war was the only occupation of the people. This would be a great mistake. The 'merry England' of the olden times deserved that name; for there was much enjoyment of life at that time. The course of the year was agreeably varied by a succession of festivals, when men ceased work, and indulged in the heartiest merriment. The chief of those days were *Christmas,* when people made themselves merry at

home, and the first of May, when the Maypole was set up in the street or on the village green, and the youths danced round it, dressed in the strangest disguises.

2. At no period was 'merry England' truer to her name than during the early reign of Henry VIII.

Maypole in the Strand of London in the Olden Time.

The king was young, handsome, and popular, fond of enjoyment and display. Though he did not neglect the business of his high station, much of his time was spent in hunting, in athletic sports, and in merry-making. When the season came round, he too went a-Maying like his subjects.

3. Alike in the cares of business and in recreation, Henry was cordially assisted by his great minister Wolsey. The son of a rich tradesman at Ipswich, Thomas Wolsey had raised himself to a position of power and dignity second only to the king. Beginning as a parish clergyman, he had risen to be Archbishop of York, and Lord High Chancellor. The pope also made him Cardinal, and appointed him Papal Legate—that is, he had power over the English Church, as if he stood in the pope's place in England.

4. He was a wise and able statesman; but his ambition and love of display spoilt his better qualities, raising against him the jealousy of the nobles and the dislike of the people. He was always attended by a large retinue; nobles and gentlemen formed part of his household train; and even his cook 'went daily in velvet or satin, with a gold chain.' Two large silver crosses were borne before him; and his cardinal's hat was carried on a cushion, as he rode along the street on his mule with trappings of red velvet.

5. Yet all this splendour and greatness were doomed to come to a sad end. After living eighteen years with his wife, Catharine of Aragon, Henry professed to have doubts about the lawfulness of his marriage, because Catharine had been previously married to his deceased brother, Arthur. Probably the real reason of his change of mind was that he had fallen in love with another lady, Anne Boleyn, a maid of honour to the queen. In any case, Henry, *who was not* accustomed to be thwarted, was resolved

to procure a divorce from the pope, and in this he expected the assistance of Wolsey.

6. The pope was in a dilemma. If he granted Henry's wish, he would offend Charles, Emperor of Germany, who was the nephew of Catharine; and if he refused it, he would offend Henry. Under these circumstances, he tried in every possible way to delay the case.

7. A court was at last held in London, at which Wolsey and an Italian cardinal were appointed to hear this strange case and pronounce sentence. When the queen's name was called, she gave no answer, but rising from her seat, she advanced to the king, and knelt before him. With great calmness and dignity, she reminded him that for more than twenty years she had been his loyal and dutiful wife. But no pleading of hers could turn the hard heart of her husband. Rising from her knees, she proudly walked out of the hall, and never entered the court again, saying: 'This is no court wherein I can have justice.'

8. Still the decision was delayed. The king became furious; he laid all the blame on Wolsey, and resolved to be rid of him. The great cardinal was therefore deprived of his high offices, and dismissed from the king's service. His magnificent palace of York Place, in London, with all its furniture, was given up to the king.

9. After a time the distressed cardinal was ordered to go to his archbishopric at York. He was rapidly making himself popular there, when he was arrested on a charge of high treason and summoned to London.

10. Wolsey prepared to meet his accusers; but the blow had shattered his spirit. At Leicester Abbey, on the way to London, his health completely broke down. On his arrival at the abbey, he thus addressed the abbot: 'Father abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you.' He lingered only a few days; and as he felt death approaching, he uttered the words which have become so well known: 'Had I but served my God as diligently as I have served my king, He would not have given me over in my gray hairs.'

1530 A.D.

in-ces'-sant, continual.
oc-cu-pa'-tion, employment.
suc-ces'-sion, a coming one after another.
fes'-ti-vals, feasts, holidays.
sta'-tion, place.
ath-let'-ic, belonging to bodily exercise.
re-cre-a'-tion, amusement.
jeal'-ous-y, envy, ill-will.
re'-tin-ue, followers, attendants.
trap'-pings, horses' ornaments.
de-ceased', dead.
thwart'-ed, crossed.
pro-cure', get.
di-vorce', separation from a husband or wife.
di-lem'-ma, doubt, difficulty.
pro-nounce', deliver.
sen'-tence, judgment.
loy'-al, faithful, true.
mag-ni'-fi-cent, grand.
ar-rest'-ed, seized.
trea'-son, crime against the king or state.
sum'-moned, called.
shat'-tered, broke.
ab'-bot, head of an abbey.

LESSON XXI.

Wolsey's Soliloquy.

Wolsey. So farewell to the little good you bear me.
Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!
This is the state of man: to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope; to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,

And—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a-ripening—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventured,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory;
But far beyond my depth: my high-blown pride
At length broke under me; and now has left me,
Weary and old with service, to the mercy
Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.
Vain pomp and glory of this world, I hate ye:
I feel my heart new opened. O, how wretched
Is that poor man that hangs on princes' favours!
There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
That sweet aspéct of princes, and their ruin,
More pangs and fears than wars or women have:
And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
Never to hope again.

Shakspeare.

wan'-ton, playful.
as-pire' to, aim at.
as-pect', look.
pangs, pains.

LESSON XXII.

The Reformation.

1. During the reign of Henry VIII., that great change in religion which we call the Reformation, was taking place. It began in Germany with the preaching of Martin Luther, who expressed his disbelief in many of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. Among those who opposed the teaching of Luther was our own King Henry VIII. He wrote a book against Luther, with which the

pope was so pleased that he gave to the king of England the title of Defender of the Faith, which his successors bear even to this day.

2. But Henry quarrelled with the pope about the divorce, and married Anne Boleyn without waiting any longer for his consent. Not long afterwards, he got parliament to pass an Act declaring that the king, and not the pope, was to be supreme Head of the English Church.

1534 A.D.

3. When the king was appointed Head of the Church, a terrible time of persecution began. The Roman Catholics could not accept any one but the pope as the Head of the Church; and many of them suffered death in consequence. Among the first to suffer were the prior and six monks of the Charter House in London, whose goodness and piety did not avail to save them. Sir Thomas More, who had been Lord Chancellor, and who was one of the best and noblest men that ever lived, also suffered death in the same cause.

Sir Thomas More.

4. But while Roman Catholics were thus put to death, Protestants shared the same fate. Henry, though he denied the power of the pope, believed most of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, and he put to death Protestants who did not agree with him.

5. Thomas Cromwell became Henry's chief adviser after Wolsey's fall, and was resolved to root out the Roman Catholic Church from the land. With a merciless hand, he suppressed the monasteries, the unhappy inmates being sent adrift with a miserable pittance. Their beautiful chapels were turned into stables, and their priceless libraries scattered or sold.

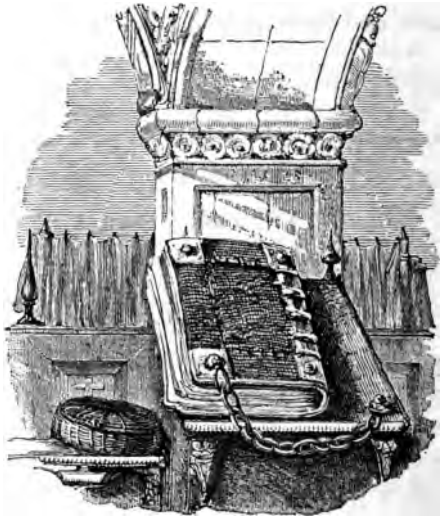
6. Henry's marriage with Anne Boleyn was unfortunate. Not long after giving birth to a daughter, named Elizabeth, she was accused of unfaithfulness and treason, and beheaded. On the following day, he married Jane Seymour, who died in less than a year, after giving birth to a son, afterwards King Edward VI.

7. Cromwell was anxious that Henry should now marry a wife who would favour the Protestants. With this end in view he recommended Anne of Cleves, a German princess, whom the king married, but speedily divorced. For his share in bringing about this marriage, Cromwell incurred the royal displeasure to such a degree that he was arrested for high treason and beheaded. Few were sorry when Cromwell perished, for he had been a hard and cruel minister.

8. Henry's fifth wife was Catharine Howard; but before a year had passed by, she was beheaded

because of her wicked behaviour before her marriage. Shortly afterwards he married his sixth wife, Catharine Parr, who had the good fortune to survive him. Ever after Wolsey's death, Henry became more and more violent and cruel. No sovereign ever began to reign under more favourable circumstances, and none has left behind a more detested name.

9. He had three children—Mary, daughter of Catharine of Aragon; Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn; and Edward, son of Jane Seymour, each of whom afterwards occupied the throne. Henry died in 1547.



Chained Bible.

10. It was one important result of the Reformation *that* the Bible became more generally known among

the people. During the reign of Henry it was translated into English by learned men, the first and most celebrated of whom was William Tyndale. The king encouraged the reading of it; but as it was still very expensive, he ordered a copy to be chained to a pillar or desk in every parish church, that all men might read it.

Re-for-ma'-tion, amendment in religion.
doc'-trines, teaching.
par'-lia-ment, the great council of a nation.
in'-mates, those living in a place.
pit'-tance, small sum of money.
price'-less, beyond price.
ar-rest'-ed, taken to prison.
high trea'-son, plotting against the king.
sur-vive', live longer than.
de-test'-ed, hated.

The Reformers were also called **Protestants.** They got this name because, at one of the diets or great meetings of the German Empire held at Spires (1529), they *protested* against the doings of the Emperor Charles V., who wished to put them down.

LESSON XXIII.

Edward VI., 1547—1553 A.D.

1. After the death of Henry VIII., England had another boy-king. Edward VI., only son of Henry, was just ten years old when he ascended the throne. His uncle, the brother of his mother, Jane Seymour, was appointed Protector, with the title of Duke of Somerset.

2. The late king had been very anxious that his son should marry Mary Stewart, the young Queen of Scotland. But as the Scotch nobles did not like this proposed marriage, Somerset led an army into Scotland to compel them to consent to it. At Pinkie, near Musselburgh, he defeated the Scottish

army, but failed to secure the queen, who had been sent to France, and where in the course of time she married Francis, the heir to the French throne.

3. Thus the sole result of Somerset's victory at Pinkie was again to awaken the hatred of Scotland against the English. There was also serious discontent in England, especially among the poor. The violent changes in religion had also displeased great numbers of the people. Many of the poorer people loved their old religion, and were deeply grieved to see it suppressed, and especially to see the monasteries pulled down, because they used to find employment there while in health, and relief in sickness or old age.

4. Rebellions sprang up on all sides, and at last the Earl of Northumberland secured the downfall of Somerset, who was tried for high treason, and beheaded. But Northumberland also favoured the Protestants; and some of the bishops who clung to the old beliefs were put into prison.

5. Amidst the changes and troubles of this reign, the Prayer-book was first published. This book, though it has since undergone some changes, is still used in every branch of the English Church throughout the world. Many of the prayers were taken, with some alterations, from the service-books of the old church, but translated from Latin into English.

6. Edward was a very weakly boy, and his health soon began to give way. This was a great source of alarm to Northumberland, for if the king should die, his elder sister, Mary, daughter of Henry VIII. and Catharine of Aragon, would succeed to the throne.

It was well known that she was a very firm Roman Catholic, like her mother, and that she would be no friend to the Earl of Northumberland.

7. Northumberland, however, had a grand scheme by which he hoped to maintain and even increase his power. He persuaded the dying king to make a will leaving the crown to Lady Jane Grey, the wife of the earl's own son. Lady Jane was the granddaughter of the youngest sister of Henry VIII.; but as Mary and Elizabeth, two daughters of Henry, were alive, of course she had no claim to the throne. In the meantime, the young king grew much worse, and died at the age of sixteen. He was very good, and fond of learning. The nation had entertained great hopes of him; and they were very sorry to lose him at such a time of trouble and uncertainty.

pro-posed', offered.
con-sent', agree.
dis'-con-tent, grumbling.
sup-pressed', put down.
al-ter-a'-tions, changes.
scheme, plan.
en-ter-tained', felt.
un-cer'-tain-ty, doubt.

LESSON XXIV.

Mary I., 1553—1558 A.D.

1. The fine scheme of Northumberland ended in a speedy failure. Lady Jane Grey, his daughter-in-law, was proclaimed queen very much against her own wish; for she was fond of study and retirement, and preferred her books to all the grandeur of a throne. But she was only sixteen years of age, and was obliged to consent to the wishes of her husband and father-in-law.

2. Northumberland, who had taken the title of Duke, was neither loved nor trusted by the people, and his violent changes in religion had caused great discontent. His attempt to deprive the Princess Mary of her rightful throne met with no encouragement. Every one supported her claim, though a woman had never before held supreme power in England, and she was proclaimed queen.

3. When his cause had become hopeless, even the Duke of Northumberland professed to support her; but he met with no mercy, being sent to the Tower, and beheaded. On the scaffold, he showed his selfishness and insincerity. Hoping to please the queen, who was a very decided Roman Catholic, and thus save his life, he declared that he had always been a Catholic in his heart. The innocent and unfortunate Lady Jane Grey and her husband were also sent to the Tower, where, after some delay, they both suffered a similar fate.

4. The strongest wish of Mary was to restore the Roman Catholic religion in England. The bishops who had been imprisoned during the last reign were brought back to their posts; while the leading Protestant bishops, Ridley, Latimer, and Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, were sent to prison, and afterwards burnt at the stake. During the last three years of this reign, nearly three hundred persons, including women and even children, were put to the cruel death of burning, on account of their religion. But the persecuted Protestants met their death with great bravery, and won great sympathy for their cause.

5. Mary married Philip II., king of Spain. This marriage was very unpopular in this country, and very unfortunate for the queen, whom her husband first treated with coldness, and then abandoned. A serious disaster also marked the close of her reign—the French succeeded in taking Calais by surprise. Ever since the reign of Edward III., Calais had belonged to England, and was all that remained of the English possessions in France. The queen's grief at its loss was excessive; she said that after her death the name of Calais would be found written on her heart.

6. All these sorrows brought on a low fever, of which she died, after a miserable reign of five years. All her plans failed, all her hopes were disappointed; and her name has been handed down in history as the Bloody Mary.

re-tire'-ment, a being quiet and alone.
pre-ferred', chose as being better.
de-prive', take away from.
su-preme', the highest.
scaf'-fold, platform on which criminals are executed.
in-sin-cer'-i-ty, lying.
sim'-i-lar, like.
re-store', bring back, set up again.
sym'-pa-thy, fellow-feeling.
a-ban'-doned, left.
dis-as'-ter, misfortune, calamity.
ex-ces'-sive, very great.

LESSON XXV.

Elizabeth, 1558—1603 A.D.

1. Elizabeth, the younger daughter of Henry VIII., now ascended the throne, to the great joy of the nation. As she was the daughter of Anne Boleyn, a Protestant, people naturally expected that she would act very differently from the daughter

of Catharine of Aragon. During the reign of her sister, Elizabeth had often been in great danger of her life, and had learned how to act with prudence and caution.

2. The first years of her reign were beset with difficulties. Mary Stewart, Queen of Scotland, caused her much trouble by laying claim to the English throne, in which she was supported by many of the Roman Catholics in England. The state of religion and the condition of the church was another serious difficulty. Elizabeth was determined to abolish the authority of the pope in England; but she did not altogether approve the conduct of the Protestant party during the reign of her brother, Edward VI.; so she made such changes as she thought would satisfy moderate men of all parties. In this way she gave to the Church of England the form which it retains to the present day. The prayers were read in English, instead of Latin. The Prayer-book was revised, and the Thirty-Nine Articles, which contain the doctrines of the Church of England, were finally settled.

3. Two Acts were passed by her first parliament, which clearly showed what were her intentions on religious questions. The first was called the Act of Supremacy, which required every person who held any office to take oath that he accepted the queen as the only supreme governor, both in spiritual and temporal matters. The second was called the Act of Uniformity, which commanded that every one should use only the Prayer-book in public worship, and imposed a fine on all who absented themselves from

church. Thus was the Church of England finally separated from the Church of Rome.

4. But the queen had other opponents besides the Roman Catholics. The cruel persecutions of Mary Tudor, or Bloody Mary, had driven many Protestants away from the country, and some of them had found refuge in Geneva. There they learned a more extreme form of Protestantism, and on their return to England on the accession of Elizabeth, they began to demand far more extensive changes in the church. They took the name of Puritans, because they believed that their opinions would secure greater purity of worship and doctrine. Elizabeth disliked the Puritans very much, and would never consent to make the changes they asked for.

5. The great mass of the people, however, were content with what Elizabeth and her wise minister and adviser, Lord Burleigh, had done. If Mary Stewart, who had become queen of France as well as of Scotland, should induce France to make war with England in support of her claim, the old Roman Catholic Church, with all the cruel persecutions of Mary Tudor, might be brought back again. So men of different opinions thought it better to stand by Elizabeth.

nat'-ur-al-ly, of course.
ab-ol'-ish, put an end to.
au-thor'-i-ty, power.
ap-prove', think to be right.
mod'-er-ate, not violent or extreme.
re-vised', looked over and improved.
doc'-trines, things taught.
spir'-i-tu-al, belonging to the soul.
tem'-por-al, belonging to the world.
u-ni-for'-mi-ty, sameness.
im-posed', laid on.
op-po'-nents, those who are against us.
min'-is-ter, servant, adviser.
in-duce', persuade.

LESSON XXVI.

Mary, Queen of Scots.

1. Mary Stewart, the young and beautiful queen of Scotland, had married Francis, eldest son of the king of France. Not long afterwards, her husband became king of France, and then he and his wife assumed the title of king and queen of England. This alarmed Elizabeth very much, as she expected that Francis would try to make good his claim by war. But this cause of alarm was soon removed by the early death of Francis.

2. Mary now returned to Scotland, where she found that the people had adopted a decided form of Protestantism, and that they looked upon everything connected with the Roman Catholic Church as wicked and abominable. Being a firm Roman Catholic, she met with nothing but trouble in her kingdom. In other respects, her conduct was very wrong; so her people rose against her. In 1568 her forces were finally defeated at Langside, near Glasgow, and the bewildered queen was obliged to seek refuge in England.

3. Now, Elizabeth could not forget that Mary had once laid claim to the crown of England, and was actually the next heir, if Elizabeth should have no children of her own. There were many also in England who thought that Mary's claim was stronger than Elizabeth's, and who would have preferred her as queen. Thus Elizabeth was in a real *difficulty*. She would not see Mary, nor would she

let her go, so she kept her in prison, and determined to wait and see how matters would go on.

4. For nineteen long and weary years the unhappy Queen of Scots was moved about from castle to castle, and from fortress to fortress. Some of the ruined castles in the north and midland parts of England still derive their chief interest from their connection with her. Bolton Castle in the north of Yorkshire, Sheffield Manor, and Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire, are in this way specially worthy of mention.

5. Yet even in prison she was a constant source of danger to Elizabeth. Many plots were formed on her behalf, and it required every possible care on the part of Elizabeth's ministers to discover them. Even the Duke of Norfolk, the leading nobleman in England, entered into a conspiracy to marry the imprisoned queen; but it was found out, and the duke was beheaded.

6. At length a plot was formed to put Elizabeth to death, and place Mary on the throne, a young English Catholic, named Anthony Babington, being the chief conspirator. Some letters written by Babington to Mary were sent by the hands of a man who supplied Mary's household with beer. This man being bribed, gave them up to Walsingham, the English Secretary of State, whereupon the conspirators were brought to trial and executed.

7. Mary was also accused of being concerned in the conspiracy; and a commission was appointed to try her, which declared her guilty of attempting the death of the queen of England. The streets of

London blazed with bonfires, and the church bells clashed, when the news of her condemnation was known, for so long as Mary lived, people felt there

Queen Mary declaring her Innocence.

would be no rest or quiet in the land. Elizabeth, however, shrank from signing the death-warrant. When she was at last prevailed upon to give her *consent, no* time was lost in carrying out the sentence.

8. The Earls of Shrewsbury and Kent went to Fotheringay, where she was now imprisoned, and bade the unfortunate Mary prepare for death. She received the sad message with perfect calmness; laying her hand on the Testament, she solemnly declared she had not conspired against the life of the queen. While partaking of her frugal supper, she tried to comfort her distressed servants. On the following morning she dressed herself with great care; and after taking an affecting farewell of her servants, calmly proceeded to the place of execution.

9. The Dean of Peterborough was anxious to preach a sermon to the doomed queen, but she assured him it was quite useless, as she meant to die, as she had lived, in the Roman Catholic faith. After one of her maids had covered her face with a handkerchief, she laid her head on the block, and uttered her last prayer. With two strokes of his axe, the executioner severed the still beautiful head from the body; and thus, in the forty-fifth year of her age, perished Mary, Queen of Scots. Her faults were great, but her beauty and misfortunes have excited the sympathy of many. **1587 A.D.**

as-sumed', took.
a-larmed', terrified.
a-dopt'-ed, taken up.
be-wil'-dered, perplexed, terrified.
act'-u-al-ly, in fact.
bribed, persuaded with money.
com-mis'-sion, a number of persons charged to perform certain duties.
com-dem-na'-tion, sentence.
death'-war-rant, a paper commanding that a person be put to death.
fru'-gal, sparing, simple.
pro-ceed'-ed, went.
ex-e-cu'-tion, putting to death.
ut'-tered, spoke.
ex-e-cu'-tion-er, one who puts condemned persons to death.
sev'-ered, divided.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was the grand-daughter of the eldest sister of Henry VIII. Many of the Catholics thought she had a better claim to the crown than Elizabeth, because they considered that Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was not the lawful wife of Henry.

LESSON XXVII.

Sir Philip Sidney at Zutphen.

[At the battle of Zutphen, fought in the Netherlands in 1586, Sir Philip Sidney, the most accomplished gentleman of his time, was mortally wounded. He was in command of troops sent by Elizabeth to fight for the Dutch against the Spaniards. It is said that when he was leaving the battle-field, he asked for water to quench his thirst. Just as he was raising the cup to his lips, he observed a wounded soldier being carried past, who looked wistfully at the water. Sidney at once handed the cup to him, saying, 'Thy necessity is greater than mine.']

'Twas on the field of Zutphen;
The battle's din was o'er,
And bold and gallant foemen
Had fallen to rise no more.

Just then with lessening radiance
Streamed the pale light of day
O'er the sad place, where side by side
Victor and vanquished lay.

Among the dead and dying
Was many a noble face,
Which told of gentle ancestry,
And spoke of inbred grace.

But 'midst them all a face there shone
Pre-eminently bright,
A face that almost seemed endued
With more than earthly light;

A face which e'en to look upon
Reflected goodness gave,

And left a sense of happiness,
It was so true and brave.

It was the face of such a man
As you shall rarely see;
Of all Queen Bess's brilliant train,
The courtliest knight was he.

But sore he had been wounded:
When hardly yet begun,
His noble life was ebbing fast,
His glorious work was done.

And, as he rode in agony,
A deep cry from him burst:
'Oh, for one drop of water,
To quench this raging thirst!'

With willing steps and loving hearts,
They bring it him in haste;
See! with what eagerness he longs
The cooling draught to taste!

But, as in very act to drink,
He hears a stifled moan
From a poor soldier lying near,
And dying all alone.

Without one least complaining word,
Without one single sigh,
He yields the cup; he simply says:
'*He* needs it more than I.'

ra'-di-ance, brightness.
van'-quished, conquered.
an'-ces-try, line of forefathers.
pre-em'-i-nent-ly, more than all the rest.
en-dued', gifted.
re-flect'-ed, thrown back.
court'-li-est, finest, gentlest.
ebb'-ing, flowing low.

LESSON XXVIII.

The Spanish Armada.

1. Elizabeth had a fierce and determined foe in Philip, king of Spain, who had been the husband of her sister, Queen Mary. He was at that time the most powerful monarch in Europe, and had long been watching for an opportunity to conquer England. Accordingly, he built an enormous fleet, called the Invincible Armada, consisting of nearly 150 vessels, many of which were the largest that had ever been seen, being more like floating castles than ordinary ships. A well-trained army of 30,000 men, commanded by one of the greatest generals of the time, also lay ready in Flanders. When the time came, fleet and army were to act together, and thus effect the conquest of England.

2. In England, great preparations were made to resist the threatened invasion. All classes enthusiastically combined to assist the government in equipping a fleet and army. The city of London gave twice the number of ships and men required; and in due time a large fleet was ready to fight the Invincible Armada. Compared with the mighty ships of Spain, most of the English vessels were very small indeed; but they were also far more easily managed, and better suited to move about in the stormy seas which surround our island. They could sail twice as fast as the Spanish ships, and their guns were served four times as fast.

3. The queen herself visited the land forces *assembled* at Tilbury, near London, and encouraged

them, telling them that she was 'resolved in the midst and heat of battle to live and die amongst you all. I know,' she added, 'that I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart of a king, and of a king of England too.'

4. Late in July 1588, the Spanish fleet was seen off the coast of Cornwall. Lord Howard, the commander of the English fleet, had just time to get out of Plymouth, when he saw the enemy advancing in the form of a crescent, seven miles in extent. He kept his vessels in the rear, as they sailed up the Channel. From every harbour, ships sailed forth, till a fleet of 140 had gathered, all eager to take part in the great fight. They kept in close pursuit, harassing the Spaniards, and cutting off stragglers, but carefully avoiding a battle.

5. At last, the Spaniards rested for a while in Calais harbour, and then Howard tried a new scheme. One dark night he took eight of his worst vessels, and setting them on fire, sent them to drift before the wind and tide upon the Spanish fleet. The Spaniards cut their cables and fled in the greatest disorder and dismay. In this condition they were attacked by the English fleet. The battle raged for six hours. The English ships poured broadsides into the huge Spanish vessels; while the Spaniards wasted enormous quantities of powder and shot, shooting over the English vessels, and thus doing no harm. Not one English vessel was taken, while the best ships of the enemy were riddled through and through. Sixteen of their stoutest vessels were lost, and from four to five thousand men were killed. The Spanish admiral, finding

himself thus sorely defeated, determined to return home; but as the wind was contrary, he thought it best to proceed northward, and sail round the north of Scotland.

6. Away went the Spanish fleet, broken and disheartened, but still formidable, pursued for some distance by the English. The weather becoming stormy, the latter returned home, leaving the Spaniards to their fate. After the Spanish fleet had passed the Orkneys, it was overtaken by a terrible storm, in which many of the remaining ships were wrecked. Of that mighty Armada, which was going to do such great things, only 54 ships ever reached home again. The seamen and soldiers who survived, told such wonderful stories of English valour, and of the stormy seas that beat upon the English coast, that Spain did not again attempt to attack our island-home.

7. Philip's hope had been not only to crush Elizabeth, but to crush Protestantism too. He had earnestly hoped that the Roman Catholics in England would rise in his favour, and help him to gain the victory; but he was sadly disappointed. Men of all classes and all religions united warmly in defence of English liberty and of their gallant queen. The commander of the fleet, Lord Howard of Effingham, was a Roman Catholic, but he never failed in his duty and loyalty. All united too in praise and thanksgiving for the great and glorious victory. The crisis had been a terrible one, but it was happily overcome by the bravery of English seamen, and the *force of the* tempest.

e-nor'-mous, very large.
in-vin'-ci-ble, not to be beaten.
Ar-ma'-da, fleet of armed ships.
en-thu-si-as'-tic-al-ly, with great zeal and spirit.
com-bined', joined together.
e-quip'-ping, fitting out.
cres'-cent, the shape of the moon when near half-moon.
ca'-bles, very large ropes, especially those that fix a ship to her anchor.
dis-or'-der, confusion.
broad'-side, fire from all the guns on one side of a ship at once.
ad'-mi-ral, the commander of a fleet.
dis-heart'-ened, cast down, out of heart.
loy'-al-ty, love for the king or queen.
u-nit'-ed, joined together.
cri'-sis, time of danger.
tem'-pest, great storm.

LESSON XXIX.

Elizabeth at Tilbury.*

Let them come, come never so proudly,
O'er the green waves as giants ride;
Silver clarions menacing loudly,
'All the Spains' on their banners wide;
High on deck of the gilded galleys,
Our light sailors they scorn below;
We will scatter them, plague, and shatter them,
Till their flag hauls down to their foe!
For our oath we swear,
By the name we bear,
By England's queen, and England free and fair;
Hers ever and hers still, come life, come death!
God save Elizabeth!

Sidonia, Recalde, and Leyva
Watch from their bulwarks in swarthy scorn,
Lords and princes by Philip's favour—
We by birthright are noble born!

* Reprinted from *Visions of England*, by permission of the author.

Freemen born of the blood of freemen,
Sons of Creçy and Flodden are we!
We shall sunder them, fire and plunder them,
English boats on the English sea!
And our oath we swear,
By the name we bear,
By England's queen, and England free and fair;
Hers ever and hers still, come life, come death!
God save Elizabeth!

Drake and Frobisher, Hawkins and Howard,
Raleigh, Cavendish, Cecil, and Brooke,
Hang like wasps by the flagships towered,
Sting their way through the thrice-piled oak;
Let them range their seven-mile crescent,
Giant galleons, canvas wide!
Ours will harry them, board, and carry them,
Plucking the plumes of the Spanish pride;
For our oath we swear,
By the name we bear,
By England's queen, and England free and fair;
Hers ever and hers still, come life, come death!
God save Elizabeth!

Hath God risen in wrath and scattered?
Have his tempests smote them in scorn?
Past the Orcades, dumb and tattered,
'Mong sea-beasts do they drift forlorn?
We were as lions hungry for battle;
God has made our battle his own!
God has scattered them, sunk and shattered them;
Give the glory to Him alone!
While our oath we swear,
By the name we bear,

By England's queen, and England free and fair;
Hers ever and hers still, come life, come death!
God save Elizabeth!

Francis T. Palgrave.

clar'-i-ons, trumpets.
men'-a-cing, threatening.
bul'-warks, strongly fortified decks.
swarth'-y, dark.
gal'-le-ons, large ships of Spain.
can'-vas, sails.
har'-ry, harass, destroy.
for-lorn', quite lost.
Orcades, the Orkney Islands.

LESSON XXX.

Death of Elizabeth.

1. With all her great qualities, Elizabeth had some sad weaknesses. She was vain and fond of show, and much given to favourites. In the early

Queen Elizabeth in Procession surrounded by her Court.

part of her reign, the Earl of Leicester was her principal favourite; and the visit of the queen to

Kenilworth Castle, where Leicester lived, was one of the most remarkable events of the time. She remained there for three weeks, and was entertained with a continual succession of shows and banquets. Though Leicester was no general, the queen showed her partiality for him by placing him in command of the English army which mustered at Tilbury to fight the Spaniards.

2. After Leicester's death, her chief favourite was the young Earl of Essex, a brave, but rash and headstrong man. He was sent to Ireland to put down a rebellion, but he made peace with the rebels, and came home without leave. This greatly offended Elizabeth, who commanded him to be imprisoned in his own house. Believing that the queen was under the influence of his private enemies, he now raised a rebellion; and marching into the city, tried, but in vain, to induce the people to rise on his behalf. He was brought to trial, and condemned to death for high treason.

3. Though compelled by duty to sign the death-warrant of one whom she had loved, the queen still hoped that she might have an opportunity of pardoning Essex. In earlier days, she had given him a ring, telling him that if ever he should be in trouble, he was to send the ring to her, and she would do what she could for him. The ring never came, and Essex was executed.

4. While lying in prison, he too had thought of the ring, and had asked the Countess of Nottingham to give it to the queen. The husband of the countess, *however,* would not allow her to forward it, because

Essex was a rival. Two years afterwards, when the countess lay on her death-bed, she begged the queen to come to her, and confessed that she had kept back the ring. Elizabeth, in a rage, shook the dying woman, exclaiming: 'God may forgive you, but I never will.'

5. In her old age, the queen fell into a deep melancholy, refusing food, and taking no rest. She sat day and night propped up with pillows, with sad and downcast eyes, and with her finger on her lips. Her mind and memory gradually gave way, and in the seventieth year of her age, and forty-fifth of her reign, she passed away, leaving behind her, with all her faults, the reputation of having been one of England's greatest sovereigns. She was the last of the House of Tudor, and had never been married. **1603 A.D.**

6. During this reign the first law for the relief of the poor was passed. Vagabonds and beggars were ordered to be whipped and passed on from parish to parish; but the really destitute were intrusted to overseers, who were authorised to give them relief, and lay a rate upon the parish. This law continued in force for upwards of two hundred years, until the present poor-law system was established in 1834.

prin'-ci-pal, chief.
en-ter-tained', amused.
suc-ces'-sion, a coming one after another.
par-ti-al'-it-y, fondness.
mus'-tered, gathered together.
of-fend'-ed, displeased.
con-demned', judged, sentenced.
for'-ward, send.
rep-u-ta'-tion, fame.
mel'-an-cho-ly, gloomy, depressed state of mind.
vag'-a-bonds, people who have no fixed abode.
des'-ti-tute, needy.
in-trust'-ed, given in charge.
au-thor-ised', had powers given them.
rate, a tax.
es-tab'-lished, set up.

LESSON XXXI.

Adventurers by Sea.

1. The spirit of adventure which sprung up during the reign of Henry VII., and which to some extent marked the time of Henry VIII. and Mary, was greatly encouraged and strengthened during Elizabeth's long and prosperous sway. Some of the boldest and bravest sailors the world has ever seen lived at this time. One of the greatest of these was Francis Drake, who was the first Englishman that sailed round the world. He was the eldest child of a large family in humble circumstances, hardy and fond of adventure. When he grew to manhood, he was fired with an ambition to imitate the foreign navigators who had crossed the Pacific Ocean.

2. On the 13th December 1577, Drake set sail from Plymouth with five small vessels. Four of these vessels soon left him, but the brave man went on with his one vessel, the *Golden Hind*, and after sailing round the world, returned to Plymouth in November 1580. This was a great achievement in those days, when ships were small, and men were so imperfectly acquainted with the science of navigation.

3. At that time, so strong was the hatred of the English people towards Spain, that they did not think it wrong to rob, or even to kill a Spaniard. Drake attacked the Spanish vessels wherever he found them, and came home enriched with spoil, *though* at that time there was peace between

England and Spain. Philip of Spain was very angry, and demanded that the booty should be restored.

4. Elizabeth, after waiting till the king of Spain's anger had somewhat abated, showed her approbation of Drake's conduct by going to Plymouth to welcome him on his return. She was entertained at a splendid feast on board the *Golden Hind*. Drake was made a knight, and for a long time his vessel was preserved at Deptford, just as Stephenson's first railway engine is still preserved at Darlington. It was afterwards taken to pieces, and out of the best parts of the wood, a chair was made, which was lodged in the university of Oxford.

5. Some years afterwards, while the Invincible Armada was preparing, Sir Francis Drake set sail with thirty ships, and went right into the harbour of Cadiz, where he burned a large quantity of shipping, and inflicted other losses upon the Spaniards. On his way home, he took a vessel containing a very valuable cargo, and spent his share of the spoil in bringing water into the town of Plymouth from a spring fifteen miles away. He was appointed second in command in the great Armada fight, seized the treasure-ship of the Spaniards, and divided the money among his sailors.

6. Drake thus gained fame as a warrior as well as a sailor. Other great men of his time are best known as sailors and discoverers. Among these were Martin Frobisher and John Davis, who explored the North Seas; the one gave his name to a bay, the other to a strait, discovered by him. These brave men and their

crews underwent great hardships, their vessels being often threatened with destruction by icebergs. Baffin's Bay was named after another of those hardy sailors of the time of Elizabeth. But no Englishman of that time has left a broader mark on the map of America than Henry Hudson. A strait, a bay, a river, and a city on its banks, are all called after him.

ad-ven'-ture, daring, enterprise.
pros'-per-ous, happy, flourishing.
sway, rule.
nav'-i-ga-tors, sailors.
a-chieve'-ment, great deed.
en-riched', made rich.
boot'-y, spoil.
a-bat'-ed, grown less.
ap-prob-a'-tion, approval.
pre-served', kept.
car'-go, lading of a ship.
ice'-bergs, hills of ice.

LESSON XXXII.

Social Condition during the Tudor Period.

1. It was during the reign of Elizabeth that our English homes began to be really comfortable. Before this time the nobles lived in strong castles, built for defence against their enemies, but gloomy, ugly, and very uncomfortable. Those gave place to beautiful mansions, with well-trimmed gardens, laid out in terraces, broad flights of steps, and beds of flowers and shrubs cut in various designs. Even the dwellings of the humbler classes were greatly improved.

2. Chimneys now came into use; pillows were substituted for the logs of wood which formerly served the same purpose; and in the houses of the wealthy, carpets covered the floor, though elsewhere *rushes* were still generally used for that purpose.

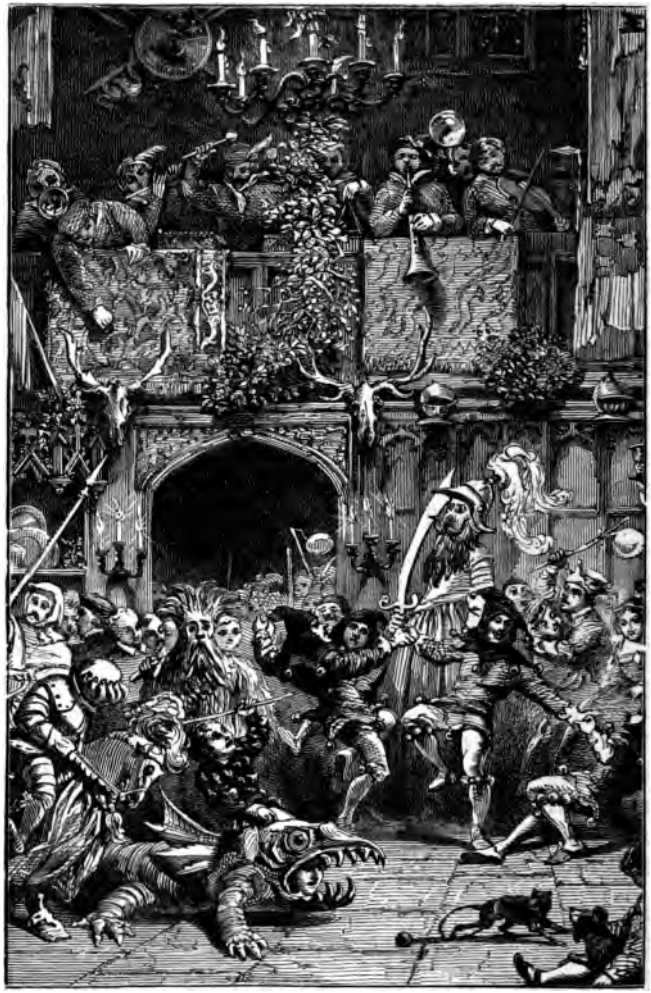
Glass windows began to be common. Instead of wooden dishes and spoons, pewter plates and tin or silver spoons came into use. Pewter plates might be found in some private houses so late as the beginning of the present century; and in certain chop-houses in London and elsewhere, they are used to this day.

3. Coaches came into use towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, but they were very clumsy and uncomfortable. About the same period, tobacco and the potato were introduced from America.

4. Bishop Latimer, in one of his sermons, gives us a picture of the way men lived on their farms, and the rent they paid. His father, he tells us, paid three or four pounds rent at the most for a farm, and tilled land enough to support six men and one hundred sheep; whilst his mother milked thirty cows. He kept a horse and a man for the king's service, and sent his son to school, and afterwards to college. He gave each of his daughters five pounds on their marriage; and he could be hospitable to his neighbours, and help the poor sometimes—and all from this one farm.

5. The higher classes still dined at a high table in their hall, while the servants sat at lower tables. Early in Elizabeth's reign, knives for eating were introduced, but forks were not used until the following reign. Among fashionable people, dinner was at eleven, and supper was at five; farmers dined at one, and supped at seven.

6. The dress of the wealthy classes was very magnificent. Round their necks, both ladies and



Christmas Revels in the Olden Time.

gentlemen wore enormous ruffs, stiffened with starch and wire. Cloaks of silk or velvet, embroidered with gold or silver, were worn by gentlemen. Silk stockings were first introduced in this reign. The queen received a present of a pair, and was so pleased with them, that she would never afterwards wear any other kind. Pins were introduced from France by Catharine Howard, the fifth wife of Henry VIII.

7. The old English merry-makings continued to be as popular as ever during the reign of Elizabeth. At Christmas especially, all work ceased, and from one end of the country to the other, the people gave themselves up to fun and jollity. All the amusements of this time were hearty and vigorous; but some, such as bear-baiting, were rough and cruel. During this reign, the theatre became a great amusement in London. The first public theatre was erected in the middle of this reign at Blackfriars in London; but before Elizabeth's death, there were eighteen theatres in London alone.

8. There was a great superstition existing in England at this time—the belief in witchcraft. Every misfortune was put down to some witch, and many a poor, infirm old woman was sent to the pillory, or drowned, on the charge of being a witch, and under the special power of the devil. This superstition lingered for a long time, and is even still to be met with among ignorant persons.

man'-sion, fine large house.
trimmed, cut and kept nice.
ter'-ra-ces, banks of earth raised and made level.
de-signs', patterns, forms.
sub-sti-tut'-ed, put in the place of.
in-tro-duced', brought in.
hos'-pi-ta-ble, kind.
em-broid'-ered, adorned with needlework.

pop'-u-lar, well liked by the people. | **lin'-gered,** remained, did not go away.
in-firm', weak in health.

In **bear'-bait-ing,** a number of dogs were set to worry a bear in the presence of the crowd.

LESSON XXXIII.

The Homes of England.

The stately homes of England,
How beautiful they stand!
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land!
The deer across their greensward bound
Through shade and sunny gleam,
And the swan glides past them with the sound
Of some rejoicing stream.

The merry homes of England!
Around their hearths by night,
What gladsome looks of household love
Meet in the ruddy light!
There woman's voice flows forth in song,
Or childhood's tale is told;
Or lips move tunefully along
Some glorious page of old.

The cottage homes of England!
By thousands on her plains,
They are smiling o'er the silvery brooks,
And round the hamlet fanes.
Through glowing orchards forth they peep,
Each from its nook of leaves;
And fearless there the lowly sleep,
As the bird beneath their eaves.

The free fair homes of England!
Long, long in hut and hall
May hearts of native proof be reared
To guard each hallowed wall!
And green for ever be the groves,
And bright the flowery sod,
Where first the child's glad spirit loves
Its country and its God.

Mrs Hemans.

an-ces'-tral, old; belonging to our ancestors.
green'-sward, green grass or turf.
glad'-some, glad, joyful.
rud'-dy, glowing red.
sil'-ver-y, clear like silver.
ham'-let fanes, village churches.
eaves, edges of the roofs projecting over the walls.
proof, well-tried valour.
reared, brought up, raised.
hal'-lowed, sacred.

LESSON XXXIV.

Trade, Commerce, Literature.

1. The trade of the country increased very rapidly under Elizabeth's wise and peaceful government. The woollen manufacture was the most important. The cruel religious persecutions carried on in the Netherlands by Philip of Spain drove the manufacturers from that country to England, where they found a home, and set up a very active trade. The iron trade was still confined to Sussex and Kent, as the great iron fields of the North and the Midlands were yet unknown. In the reign of Elizabeth, the Royal Exchange in London was built by Sir Thomas Gresham, one of the merchant-princes of his time; it received its name from the queen, who visited it in state in 1571.

2. Commerce with foreign countries increased even more than inland trade. Archangel, in the north of Russia, was discovered, and an important trade with Russia sprung up. The expeditions to the North Seas, and to the West Coast of Africa, helped to extend English commerce; but it is sad to have to tell, that the abominable slave-trade—the trade of stealing men and women from the coast of Africa, and carrying them to America, to be sold like cattle—also began in this reign. To Sir John Hawkins, one of the brave seamen and explorers of this active time, the disgrace of commencing this trade belongs; but at that time no one seemed to consider it any disgrace. In 1600 the first charter was granted by Elizabeth to the East India Company, which marks the beginning of our trade with the East Indies.

3. One of the most striking features of Elizabeth's reign was the very marked revival of learning and literature. All the Tudor sovereigns were learned, and did all they could to encourage learning. In Henry VIII.'s time, Erasmus, the greatest scholar of his day, was for a short time Professor of Greek at Oxford, and did much to promote sound knowledge of the classics.

4. A large number of public and grammar schools were founded. John Colet, Dean of St Paul's, London, founded St Paul's School. Edward VI. founded Christ's Hospital, or the Blue-Coat School; and many grammar schools throughout the country bear his name, or that of one of his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, as their founders. Eton College was *founded at* an earlier period by Henry VI.

5. For nearly two hundred years there had been no poet in England of any importance. It seemed as though Chaucer was to be both our first and our last poet. But now the long silence was broken. Edmund Spenser wrote his *Faerie Queen*, which was received with a general welcome; and from his time to the present there has been a constant succession of poets in England.

6. Still more remarkable was the sudden growth of what is called Dramatic Literature, that is, pieces written in the form of dialogue for acting in a theatre. By far the greatest writer of these was William Shakspeare. He was born at Stratford-on-Avon, in 1564. He married early, and when only twenty-three, went to make his fortune in London. While there, he became connected with the Globe Theatre in Blackfriars, and at last became chief manager. He returned to Stratford, where he died in 1616.

7. Not a single line of his manuscripts remains; nor a single allusion of his own to his productions has ever been found. His collected works were published for the first time seven years after his death, in 1623. It is very strange that so little should be known of the greatest writer England has ever produced. It cannot even be guessed how or when he wrote his wonderful plays, or where he picked up the knowledge that appears on every page; but there they are, one of the greatest marvels in our English literature.

in-creased', grew.
gov'-ern-ment, rule.
ab-om'-in-a-ble, that should be hated.

man-u-fac'-ture, making of cloth.
ex-plor'-ers, those who search out unknown countries.
char'-ter, rights given by the king.
re-viv'-al, a coming to life again.
lit'-er-a-ture, books.
sov'-er-eigns, kings.
pro-mote', help on.
clas'-sics, Latin and Greek.
di'-a-logue, conversation.
man'-u-scripts, things written with a pen, books not printed.
mar'-vels, wonders.

HOUSE OF STUART, 1603-1714 A.D.

LESSON XXXV.

James I. and the Puritans.

1. On the death of Elizabeth, King James VI. of Scotland ascended the English throne, under the title of James I. It should be remembered that about a hundred years before this, Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII., had married James IV., king of Scotland. As all the children of her brother, Henry VIII., had died, leaving no issue, James VI. of Scotland, who was the great-grandson of this Margaret, became heir to the English crown.

2. He was the only son of the unhappy Mary, Queen of Scots, whom Elizabeth caused to be beheaded. By his accession in 1603, Scotland and England were brought together under the rule of one king. Each country, however, retained its own parliament; it was not until another hundred years had passed, that the parliaments of the two countries were united, thus making the two kingdoms really one.

3. James was a man of great learning, though he did not always make the best use of it. He was very timid; his manners were awkward, and not a little shocked the English, who were accustomed to the dignity of Elizabeth's court. He was greatly under the influence of favourites, whom he treated with

James I. preparing to go Hunting.

the most foolish fondness; and he spent much of the time in hunting which should have been devoted to more serious employments.

4. James's first difficulties were about religion. At that time people thought that all men belonging to the same country, and under one sovereign, should worship God exactly in the same way. As we have seen, an act of parliament was passed in Queen Elizabeth's time, called the Act of Uniformity, which

ordered that the services contained in the Prayer-book should be used in every church in England, and no other service should be allowed. No other form of worship was to be permitted, even in a room with closed doors.

5. The Roman Catholics of course did not like the Prayer-book. They wished to retain the same forms and ceremonies as were used by the Roman Catholic Church before the Reformation. On the other hand, the Puritans thought the Prayer-book did not go far enough. They said it was too much like the old service-books of the Roman Catholic Church, and therefore they did not wish to be compelled to use it. They objected also to many of the forms of the church—such as wearing the surplice, the use of the ring in marriage, and making the sign of the cross in baptism.

6. The great body of the people were content with the services of the church; but many desired that something should be done to satisfy the Puritan clergymen, who were good, earnest men, and usually hard workers in their parishes. James, however, did not like the Puritans. He feared that they wished to do in England what had been done in Scotland, where the people had abolished most of the forms and ceremonies of religion, and in place of bishops, had appointed ministers and elders to govern the church.

7. The bishops in England were appointed by the sovereign, and were therefore much more likely to be loyal to him, than ministers and elders who were *appointed* by congregations. So James determined

to support the Episcopal Church—that is, the church governed by archbishops and bishops—and he tried to make everybody conform to that.

8. James, however, was very willing to let the Puritans have an opportunity of talking about their scruples and difficulties, as he was very fond of showing his skill and learning in such matters. A conference of bishops and leading churchmen was therefore called together at Hampton Court, four of the most eminent Puritans being invited to lay their views before them. The demands of the Puritans were refused. A few very slight changes were made in the Prayer-book; but an order was given for a new translation of the Bible, which led to the issue of our present Authorised Version.

is'-sue, children.
re-tained', kept.
ob-ject'-ed to, were against.
sur'-plice, white outer garment worn by the clergy.
ab-ol'-ished, put an end to.
con-form', do like.
con'-fer-ence, meeting.
em'-i-nent, distinguished.
au'-thor-ised, given by authority or law.

When a church is ruled by elders, it is called **Presbyterian,** from a Greek word signifying *elder.* Hence the members of the Church of Scotland are called *Presbyterians.*

LESSON XXXVI.

The Gunpowder Plot, 1605 A.D.

1. The Roman Catholics expected that the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, would favour the church to which his mother belonged, and believed that greater freedom would be allowed them in their worship.

2. In this expectation they were grievously disappointed. At first, James did not wish to deal severely with the Roman Catholics, and though he could not get the laws altered, he tried to carry them out as mercifully as possible. In a short time, however, he saw fit to adopt harsher measures; and proceeded to enforce the severe laws against the Catholics. He ordered all the priests of that church to leave the country, and with greater rigour exacted the fine for not attending church.

3. This led to the infamous Gunpowder Plot. It was a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament on the day of opening, when the king and most of the royal family would be present. Though this plot was designed and carried out by Roman Catholics, it would be very wrong to suppose that the members of that church generally supported the conspiracy.

4. Robert Catesby seems to have been the first to think of this horrible scheme. He revealed his plan to a friend called Winter, and induced him to join. Winter introduced the well-known Guido or Guy Fawkes, a soldier who had seen a good deal of hard service, and a man of known courage, whose name has ever since been chiefly associated with the plot.

5. A house was taken in Westminster, adjoining the Houses of Parliament, in the name of Percy, one of the conspirators. The plan was to cut a hole through the wall of this house into the cellars of the Houses of Parliament. They set to work at once, *digging* during the day, while Guy Fawkes kept

watch, and at night burying the rubbish in the garden. The work, however, proved much harder than they expected, as the wall was nine feet thick, and the progress was very slow.

6. One day a strange rustling noise was heard, and the conspirators were greatly alarmed. Guy Fawkes was sent to find out the cause, and he returned with the joyful news that a person occupying an adjoining cellar was selling off his stock of coals, as he was going to move elsewhere. This cellar ran exactly under the Houses of Parliament; and Percy took it, saying he wanted more room for his coals, as he was bringing his wife to London. Powder was now brought into the cellar, and carefully covered with fagots, that it might be ready at the opening of parliament, which had been delayed several times. The news then came that the opening of parliament had again been put off until November 5, 1605.

7. These delays ruined the conspiracy, for their money ran short, and it was necessary to get some wealthy men to join them, amongst whom was Francis Tresham. When the day drew near, Tresham became very anxious to save his brother-in-law, Lord Monteagle, a Roman Catholic peer, from the impending danger. He wrote a very mysterious letter to him, warning him of some terrible blow which was to happen parliament, and urging him to keep away.

8. Monteagle at once laid this letter before the government, and the king is supposed to have guessed that gunpowder was going to be used. It

was resolved that a search should be made in the cellars on the night before the meeting of parliament. About eleven o'clock, a party of soldiers having been sent for this purpose, met Fawkes at the door. The coals and wood were removed, and the barrels of gunpowder were found.

9. Fawkes saw that all was over, and at once confessed that he had intended on the following morning to blow up the king and the two Houses of Parliament. He was put to the torture to make him say who were his accomplices. He bore his tortures with a courage worthy of a better cause, and confessed very little; he afterwards met his death with fortitude.

10. The other conspirators, except Tresham, hurried away from London, and took refuge in a lonely house near Stourbridge, on the borders of Staffordshire. Here they determined to make a stand; but they were quickly overpowered, many being killed in the attack. The remainder were brought to London and executed. Tresham was confined to prison, where he died after a few days' illness.

11. Thus one of the most hideous plots ever conceived was mercifully prevented, and the plotters received their righteous doom. As a natural result, the laws were made still more severe against the Roman Catholics, who had thus to suffer for the rash and misguided zeal of a few of their number. For more than two centuries and a half, November the fifth has been observed as a holiday, and on that day many a bonfire still keeps alive the memory of Guy *Fawkes.*

griev'-ous-ly, sadly.
sym-path-ised', agreed in feeling; felt with.
en-force', put in force.
rig'-our, harshness.
ex-act'-ed, compelled payment of.
in'-fam-ous, very bad, very disgraceful.
re-vealed', made known.
as-so'-ci-at-ed, connected.
ad-join'-ing, near to.
fag'-ots, sticks for burning.
im-pend'-ing, ready to fall, near.
mys-te'-ri-ous, not easily understood, dark, puzzling.
ac-com'-pli-ces, partners in crime.
hid'-e-ous, frightful.
doom, punishment.
bon'-fire, a large fire in the open air at a time of public rejoicing.

Put to the torture. In those days, men were often put to the severest pain to make them confess secrets. For this purpose, the most cruel contrivances were used.

LESSON XXXVII.

Sir Walter Raleigh.

1. Among the many brave and distinguished men who frequented the court of Elizabeth, few were more conspicuous than Sir Walter Raleigh. He began life as a soldier, fighting as a volunteer for the persecuted Protestants of France. He then joined his half-brother, Sir Humphry Gilbert, in a scheme for planting a colony on the North American coast; but the expedition proved a failure. He next proceeded to Ireland, where he took an active part in putting down a rebellion.

2. On his return to England, he was introduced at court, where he soon became a favourite of Queen Elizabeth. A story is told of his attracting the queen's notice by throwing his rich plush coat over a muddy part of the road where she was walking.

3. Raleigh still persevered with his plans for

planting colonies in North America. One of the expeditions he sent out returned with the report

Sir Walter Raleigh.

that they had discovered a good and fertile land, of which they had taken possession. Elizabeth, the *virgin* queen, gave it the name of *Virginia*, and

encouraged the plan for establishing colonies in the new country.

4. These colonies proved to be unsuccessful; the settlers either perished or returned home. But they are believed to have introduced among the English people two plants, with which all are now familiar, tobacco and the potato. Raleigh was fond of smoking, for which he used silver pipes. There is a story told that one day a servant who was bringing him some ale, finding him enjoying his pipe, was so terrified at seeing smoke issue from his mouth, that he threw the ale in his face, and ran down-stairs, declaring that his master was on fire.

5. Raleigh took an active part in the great fight with the Armada, being always ready to join in any expedition to injure Spain. When Elizabeth died, he lost his best friend. James did not like him, and deprived him of all the offices he held about the court. Sir Walter was charged with joining in a plot against the king, and being found guilty, but on insufficient evidence, was condemned to be beheaded.

6. The sentence was not carried out; but Raleigh was kept a prisoner in the Tower for more than twelve years. The king's eldest son, Prince Henry, who died young, became a warm friend to him, and said: 'Sure no king but my father would keep such a bird in a cage.' Nothing, however, could move the cold and selfish heart of the king, who, without any just reason, thus kept one of the bravest and wisest of his subjects in cruel confinement.

7. Raleigh occupied his time in prison in study-

ing chemistry, fitting up a small building in the garden for making experiments. He became famous as a chemist; and the queen of James I., Anne of Denmark, believed that she owed her recovery from a dangerous illness to a bottle of cordial sent to her by Raleigh. He also began to write a book called *The History of the World,* of which he finished six volumes. This work has given him a distinguished place among our great English writers.

8. But he could not forget those still undiscovered countries in America, where he believed mines of gold and silver were to be found. The great adventurers of Elizabeth's reign—Drake, Frobisher, and others—had brought home great wealth from America; why should not he, if only he were out of prison? Could not the king be tempted by the hope of getting money to let Raleigh go?

9. The king was always in want of money; so when Raleigh offered to go to Guiana in South America at his own expense, and give the king a share of the profits, he was willing to listen, and to let his captive free. Raleigh took out a fleet of fourteen ships. His wife sold her estate to raise the money, and other friends helped.

10. The voyage was a complete failure. Sickness broke out, and Sir Walter himself was taken very ill. In an attack on a Spanish town, his eldest son was killed. No mines were found, and Raleigh returned home in sadness and sorrow.

11. James was anxious to please the Spaniards, as he wanted his son Prince Charles to marry the *eldest daughter* of the king of Spain. He was very

angry with Raleigh for attacking the Spanish town, and sent him back to his old prison in the Tower, where, to James's lasting disgrace, Raleigh was beheaded. He died, as he had lived, like a brave, cheerful man. On the scaffold, as he felt the edge of the axe, he said: 'This is a sharp medicine, but it will cure all my diseases.'

fre-quent'-ed, went often about.
vol-un-teer', one who becomes a soldier of his own free will.
col'-on-y, a settlement in a distant country.
pro-ceed'-ed, went.
per-se-vered', went on steadily.
re-port', account, story.
fer'-tile, fruitful.
es-tab'-lish-ing, planting, setting up.
ev'-i-dence, proof.
cor'-di-al, a kind of medicine.
un-dis-cov'-ered, not found out.

LESSON XXXVIII.

The English Bible.

1. One of the greatest and most lasting events of James's reign is the translation of the Bible which is still used wherever the English language is spoken. The translation, as we have seen, was the result of the Hampton Court conference in 1604. It may be well to give some account of some of the previous translations of the Bible into English.

2. Even during the Anglo-Saxon period, large portions of the Bible had been translated into our old tongue. In more recent times, John Wicliffe became famous as a translator of the Bible, the whole of which was turned into English by the great Reformer and some of his contemporaries. When this translation was made, there was no printing,

so that every copy had to be written out by hand. These copies were very expensive. We read of as much as forty pounds being given for one, or a load of hay for a few chapters in English.

3. The next great translator of the Bible into English was William Tyndale. Tyndale was a student at both Oxford and Cambridge, as it was not uncommon in those days to go from one university to the other. He soon found that there was no place in England for him to carry out his purpose of giving to his countrymen a better translation of the New Testament. He went, therefore, to the Continent, where he spent the remainder of his life. Here he studied and toiled to carry out the one great and noble purpose of his life; and he succeeded, for in 1525 the whole of the New Testament, translated into English by him, was printed.

4. In consequence of the opposition that was raised to the free circulation of the Bible, an act of parliament was actually passed to forbid the use of this work. The Bishop of London bought every copy he could lay his hands on, and burned them all, hoping in this way to stop the circulation. The money thus obtained enabled Tyndale to prepare another and a better edition. He had expressed his determination to make the Bible so well known, that every ploughboy in England should have the opportunity of reading it; and he lived to fulfil his promise.

5. Because of his Protestant opinions, he was at last put into prison in Belgium, and condemned to death in 1536. His last words at the stake *were:* '*Lord,* open the king of England's eyes!'

The prayer was heard and answered. Just three years after his martyrdom, the Bible was allowed to be published in England, and a copy placed in every church. Tyndale translated and published several books of the Old Testament, but he did not live to complete this work. The Bible we now read is very similar to the one made by this great and good man.

6. Miles Coverdale published a translation of the whole Bible in 1535; and several other translations were published during the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII. The Psalms in the Prayer-book are taken from a version in which Archbishop Cranmer took an active part. The Bible as we now read it, which is usually called the Authorised Version, was translated by no one man. Fifty-four of the best scholars were selected to carry out this important work. For nearly three years the translators were closely occupied, and in the year 1611 the first edition of the Authorised Version was issued, which remains to this day the choicest treasure in every home throughout the world where the English language is spoken.

re'-cent, new, late.
con-tem'-por-ar-ies, men living at the same time.
re-main'-der, rest.
cir-cu-la'-tion, common use.
ex-pressed', spoken.
mar'-tyr-dom, death for the truth.
pub'-lished, sent out into the world.
ver'-sion, translation.
se-lect'-ed, chosen.
choic'-est, best.

LESSON XXXIX.

James I. and his Parliament.

1. James had some notions about his own power as king which would sound very strange now. He claimed to hold his power directly from God, and that it was against God's law to disobey any laws the king might think proper to make. He thought parliament should do just as he told it, and he was very angry because it would not agree to these notions.

2. There were a great many questions in which James disagreed with his parliament. For example, it was inclined to grant greater liberty to the Puritans; and it was more decidedly opposed to the Catholics than James was, especially at the beginning of his reign.

3. A very important matter also on which they differed was the question how money should be raised for the support of the government. James was very extravagant, and continually in want of money, and was obliged to ask the House of Commons to give him a supply. Before giving the king what he wanted, the Commons used to bring their grievances before him, and tried to make him rule as they wished. Thus began a struggle between the king and the parliament, which lasted for a great many years, producing the most important events in our history.

4. As time went on, James fell more and more *under the* influence of favourites, who meddled in

ıe most important affairs of government, and greatly ıcreased the unpopularity of the king. The last ıd most notorious of these was George Villiers, who ·as made Duke of Buckingham, and who had heaped pon him the highest honours and offices which the ing could bestow.

5. Probably the most unpopular scheme of James's ɔign was his attempt to bring about a marriage etween his son Charles, who, by the death of his .der brother, had become Prince of Wales, and the aughter of the king of Spain. For some years this panish marriage was talked about, but nothing ɔemed to be decided. At last Buckingham thought f a strange plan. Prince Charles and he determined ɔ go to Spain in disguise, see the lady, and get the ıarriage arranged. The king was with some diffi- ılty persuaded to give his consent.

6. The scheme did not turn out as Charles and ɔuckingham wished. The young lady did not care ɔr Charles. The real difficulty was the difference f religion. The king of Spain hoped that England ıight be brought back again to adopt the Roman ɔatholic form of faith. When he saw that was mpossible, he cared no more for the marriage; ıor could his daughter bear the idea of having a ʾrotestant for her husband. One day the prince umped over a garden wall to speak to her, but he screamed and ran away. The whole matter ıded by Prince Charles and Buckingham leaving ɔpain in a bad temper; and, to the great delight of he English people, no more was heard of the ɔpanish marriage.

7. James died in 1625. It was during his reign that the first English colonies in America were founded. In 1607 the first successful settlement was made in Virginia; and in 1620 the first of the New England colonies was established. From these small beginnings the United States of America have grown.

no'-tions, views.
de-cid'-ed-ly, strongly, very much.
griev'-an-ces, causes of complaint.
pro-duc'-ing, bringing about, causing.
no-to'-ri-ous, well known as being bad.
scheme, plan.
es-tab'-lished, settled, founded.

LESSON XL.

Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers.

In 1620 a band of English people, who were not allowed to worship God as they thought right, resolved to seek a new home on the other side of the Atlantic. They were *only a* hundred altogether, men, women, and chil-

.; and they sailed in a small ship called the *May-*
er. It was the month of November when they
ed on the American coast. They had fearful
:ulties to contend with—cold, hunger, disease,
the hostility of the Indians. Yet they endured
ı all, because in this new country they were
of finding what they most desired, 'freedom to
;hip God.' This small settlement, at New Ply-
th, was the first of the New England colonies,
:h have since done so great a work in the history
.merica. The following poem, by Mrs Hemans,
ribes the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, as these
settlers in New England have been called:

The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound coast;
And the woods, against a stormy sky,
Their giant branches tossed;
And the heavy night hung dark,
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the true-hearted, came;
Not with the roll of the stirring drums,
And the trumpet that sings of fame.
Not as the flying come,
In silence and in fear;
They shook the depths of the desert's gloom
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang:
This the stars heard, and the sea;

And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free;
The ocean-eagle soared
From his nest by the white wave's foam,
And the rocking pines of the forest roared:
Such was their welcome home.

There were men with hoary hair
Amidst that pilgrim band:
Why had they come to wither there,
Away from their childhood's land?
There was woman's fearless eye,
Lit by her deep love's truth;
There was manhood's brow serenely high,
And the fiery heart of youth.

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas? the spoils of war?
No—'twas a faith's pure shrine.
Yes, call that holy ground,
Which first their brave feet trod!
They have left unstained what there they found—
FREEDOM TO WORSHIP GOD!

hos-til'-i-ty, opposition, enmity.
rock'-bound, surrounded with rocks.
ex'-iles, men who have left their own country.
aisles, the side passages in a church, here said of the woods where the pilgrims sang.
an'-them, a sacred song.
soared, flew high up.
hoar'-y, white with age.
lit, lighted.
se-rene'-ly, calmly, clearly.
shrine, a holy place, where they might worship.

LESSON XLI.

Charles I.

1. The reign of Charles I. is one of the most nportant and also one of the most troubled in nglish history. he struggle etween the ing and the arliament, beun in his ather's time, ecame more nd more bitter, ntil it ended civil war.

Charles I.

2. The Duke Buckingham as the favoure and chief adiser of Charles, he had been his father, t he was very uch disliked the parliament. Everything he attempted turned t badly. He was sent out in command of an pedition to assist the French Protestants who ere besieged in the town of Rochelle, on the Bay Biscay. The expedition completely failed.

3. As the parliament would not vote so much money as Charles wanted, he tried to get his wants supplied in other ways. He made what were called 'forced loans'—that is, the people from whom he wished to borrow money were obliged to lend it, whether they liked it or not, or to prison they must go. It had long been declared in old charters, that no king might demand any tax except by the consent of parliament, nor might he put any man into prison except according to law. Charles was doing both.

4. The House of Commons was now very angry, and drew up the famous Petition of Right to guard their old rights and liberties. In this petition the Commons asked the king to say that it was unlawful to demand any money from the people without consent of parliament, or to send any one to prison without showing good cause for it. The king signed this statement, and it thus became unmistakably part of the law of the land.

1628 A.D.

5. Soon afterwards, Buckingham was assassinated when ready to embark on another expedition to Rochelle; but after his death, affairs went as badly as ever. At last, Charles resolved to rule without a parliament of any kind. Accordingly, for eleven years he governed alone, assisted only by two advisers. These were the Earl of Strafford, who managed the affairs of state, and Laud, Bishop of London, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, and managed church matters.

6. The king, although he had signed the Petition *of Right,* which declared that it was illegal to claim

any taxes without consent of parliament, was now obliged to break the law. All sorts of means were devised to raise supplies. Old laws and proclamations which belonged to the ancient tyrannical times, and had long been forgotten, were searched out, to furnish excuses for demanding money.

7. Among other things, Charles found out that in times of danger, as, for instance, at the time of the Spanish Armada, the sovereign had asked the seaport towns to provide vessels for the defence of the kingdom. Charles thought he would follow this example, though there was no special danger from abroad to make such a step necessary. But he went farther than any previous sovereign ever thought of doing. He demanded what he called 'ship-money,' not only from seaport districts, but from every county in England and Wales. The people being very angry, paid the money very unwillingly.

8. Among those from whom the ship-money was demanded was John Hampden, a gentleman of Buckinghamshire, from whom a sum of twenty shillings was claimed. He refused to pay the money, as the claim was illegal. The case was brought before the twelve judges at Westminster, and decided against Hampden. At that time, the judges could be dismissed by the king at once, if they did not please him, and this perhaps explains why the decision was so given.

9. Throughout all this period there was great discontent in matters of religion, for which there was no little excuse. Men, whose only offence was that they dared to think differently from the king

and Archbishop Laud, and to worship God after a different fashion, were most cruelly punished.

10. While such proceedings were causing discontent in England, Charles tried to force the Scottish people to use the same forms and ceremonies and almost the same Prayer-book as were used in the English Church. On the day when the new service was first used in Edinburgh, a woman threw a stool at the clergyman's head, and a riot followed. The whole nation of Scotland resolved that, come what would, they would not have the English Church forced upon them. They signed a National Covenant binding themselves to resist the introduction of the new forms of worship, and began to arm against the king.

July 23, 1637 A.D.

11. Charles thought this was a most wicked rebellion, and he wished to put it down at once. Having no money, and seeing no means of getting any, he found himself compelled to summon his fourth parliament. As it would not do what he wanted, he dismissed it in three weeks. Matters were now coming to a crisis, when a Scottish army crossed over into England, and met one which Charles brought from the south. To his dismay, the king found that his soldiers sympathised with the Scotch, and both joined together to demand from Charles that he should call another parliament in England. There was no means of escape; and in November 1640 the fifth parliament of Charles I. met, called the Long Parliament—the most important one that *ever sat in* this country.

civ'-il war, war between members of the same nation.
char'-ters, papers granting fixed rights and privileges.
as-sas'-sin-a-ted, murdered.
il-le'-gal, contrary to law.
de-vised', planned, contrived.
fur'-nish, give, supply.
cov'-e-nant, agreement.
sum'-mon, call together.
dis-missed', sent away.
sym-path-ise', agree.

LESSON XLII.

The Long Parliament.

1. Led by many able and prudent men, foremost among whom were Pym and Hampden, the Long Parliament now took steps to check the tyranny of the king. In the first session, the Earl of Strafford, Charles's adviser in all state matters, was accused of high treason before the House of Lords. He had been the chief promoter of all the illegal measures which had been going on during the eleven years that the king had governed without any parliament. After a trial, during which he made an able defence, he was condemned and beheaded. The aged Archbishop Laud was also sent to the Tower, where he was kept prisoner for four years and then beheaded. 1641 A.D.

2. The parliament also condemned the taking of ship-money and the other illegal taxes, and abolished the courts by which tyrannical punishments had been inflicted.

3. Very terrible news now came from Ireland. Harsh government having made the Irish people very bitter against England, they rose against their oppressors, and took cruel vengeance upon the

English settlers. Many thousand Protestants were savagely murdered, or left to die of starvation.

4. As time went on, the quarrel between the king and the parliament grew worse, until the whole country became divided into two opposing parties, of which one followed the king and the other the parliament. The king's friends were found chiefly among the nobility and gentry and their retainers, and were generally known by the name of Cavaliers. His enemies, consisting chiefly of the tradespeople in the towns, and the farmers, were nicknamed Roundheads. The cavaliers dressed gaily, and wore their hair in long curling ringlets; the Roundheads, who dressed very plainly, earned their name by having their hair cut short. Among the Roundheads, none were more bitter or more united against the king than the citizens of London.

5. Unhappily for Charles, he had a very bad adviser in his wife, Henrietta Maria. Following her advice, he determined to make one bold stroke, by which he hoped to frighten the parliament into obedience to his wishes. He accused five of the members of high treason, and sent orders to the House of Commons to give them up. The House refused to obey. On the following day, to the surprise of every one, whether friend or foe, the king himself entered the house, and demanded the immediate surrender of the five. But they had escaped just before he entered, and found a ready hiding-place among their friends in London. The king's scheme was defeated. He had risked all, and lost.

6. London was in an uproar. The streets were

crowded with people anxiously wondering what Charles would do next. All sorts of strange reports were flying about. The king's friends were disheartened, and it was plain that neither king nor queen would be safe if they remained in London. On January 10, 1642, Charles, accompanied by his queen and their children, with a few attendants, left the palace of Whitehall never to return, until he came back as a prisoner, to be led from his palace to the scaffold.

7. On the following day, the five members, coming out from their hiding-place, returned in triumph to the House of Commons. As they proceeded by water from London Bridge to Westminster, they were followed by hundreds of boats, thronged with people, and adorned with flags and streamers; while the London train-bands marched along the banks of the Thames to the sound of drum and trumpet, all keeping high holiday in their joy at the king's departure.

8. No other way of settling this quarrel now remained save that of war and bloodshed. There was then no regular army such as we now possess, but in each county there was a militia which could be called out in times of danger. The officers of this militia were appointed by the king. The Commons demanded that Charles should give up the command of the militia to them; but to such a demand the king's stern reply was, 'No; not for an hour.' The sword must be drawn. In the summer of 1642 this terrible civil war began. Charles set up his standard at Nottingham Castle, and the short

steep street just opposite the Castle Rock still bears the name of 'Standard Hill,' as a memorial of this important event.

ses'-sion, time of sitting.
op-pres'-sors, those who rule harshly and unjustly.
ven'-geance, punishment for an injury done.
re-tain'-ers, followers, servants.
up'-roar, noise and confusion.
stream'-ers, flags streaming in the wind.
train'-bands, a kind of militia or volunteers.
stand'-ard, banner.

LESSON XLIII.

The Civil War.

1. For the next three years civil war raged in the country, and Englishmen lifted their hands against each other in bitter strife. Yet the cause for which they fought was a great one. The royal party fought for what they thought the king's rights, and because they disliked the changes the Puritans wished to make. The party of the parliament fought for the rights of the people, which they held to be much more important than the king's. All Englishmen are now agreed that we greatly owe the freedom we now enjoy to our forefathers, who resolved to bleed and die on the battle-field rather than submit to the arbitrary will of a misguided king.

2. The first battle, fought at Edgehill in Warwickshire, decided nothing. During the early part of the war, the king's party were generally victorious, as their troops were better armed *and more* thoroughly trained. After a time, how-

1642 A.D.

ever, the fortune of war entirely changed, and in

Map to illustrate the Civil War.

1644 the king's army was completely defeated at Marston Moor, near York.

3. The great change in the war is due to the fact that the army of the parliament at length found an able and energetic leader. This was Oliver Cromwell, who was born at Huntingdon in 1599, and had been a member of the Long Parliament.

4. In the eastern counties, Cromwell took an active part in the war from the very first. Here, among the small manufacturing towns that at that time abounded in that district, and among the numerous farmers, he had gathered a force of brave and determined horse-soldiers, who became known as 'Cromwell's Ironsides.' They were zealous patriots and earnest Puritans, and to these men the victory of Marston Moor was mainly due. From this time the leadership of the war fell almost completely into the hands of Cromwell.

5. With the appearance of Cromwell and his Ironsides, a new party began to take a prominent place in the country. These were the Independents. In opposition to the Episcopalians, who held that the church should be governed by bishops, and to the Presbyterians, who held that the church should be governed by elders chosen by the people, they maintained that each congregation should be *independent* in the management of its own affairs. The Independents were also more disposed to grant freedom to men of other religions, and were more fiercely opposed to the king.

6. In 1645, another great battle was fought at Naseby in Northamptonshire, where the parliament was completely victorious. Here again it was Cromwell's *Iron*sides that decided the battle. In despair

ıt seeing his forces so utterly overthrown, Charles :alled on his cavalry 'for one charge more;' it was in ⁄ain. For a time he found refuge in Oxford, until

Charles at Naseby.

.e surrendered himself at Newark to the Scottish rmy, who had come to help their English brethren.

The king and they, however, could not agree; and by-and-by, after handing him over to the English, the Scotch returned home.

7. Some years of intrigue and fighting followed. The Presbyterians and Independents could not agree what was to be done with the captive king, who was kept in confinement, chiefly at Carisbrooke Castle, in the Isle of Wight. The Independents, who were strongly supported by the army, determined to bring matters to an issue by having the king brought before a court of justice, and tried for his life.

8. The House of Lords refused to take any part in such a trial. The majority of the House of Commons also objected to put Charles to death, but the soldiers were determined to carry out their purpose. Colonel Pride, an officer in Cromwell's army, placed soldiers at the door of the House of Commons, and turned away about a hundred members who would not do what his party wished. Only fifty-three were permitted to enter the House, who at once named 135 persons to form a High Court of Justice, and to conduct the trial of the king on the charge of treason against the laws of his country.

9. When the court assembled, only sixty-seven out of the 135 were present, Cromwell being among the number. The king was brought before this court, but refused to plead, saying that it had no authority of any kind to try him. However, in despite of his refusal, sentence of death was passed upon him, and two days afterwards—30th January 1649—Charles was beheaded in front of the palace of Whitehall. *He met* his fate with calmness and dignity. Other

English kings, such as Edward II., Richard II., and Henry VI., had been deposed, but this was the first time a king had died on the scaffold by the hands of the executioner. Though in his acts as king, Charles was misguided and unfortunate, he was without reproach in private life. He was an accomplished gentleman, grave and devout; and was kind and good to his queen, his children, and his friends.

ar'-bi-tra-ry, despotic.
en-er-get'-ic, very active.
prom'-i-nent, high, conspicuous.
con-gre-ga'-tion, those meeting in the same church.
de-ci'-sive, settling a matter.
in de-spite' of, in spite of.

LESSON XLIV.

Dunbar and Worcester.

1. The party who had put the king to death determined to make themselves sole rulers of the land, and at once proceeded to carry out their views. The monarchy and the House of Lords were to exist no longer. The new government was to be called a Commonwealth.

2. There were, however, great numbers of people who were deeply grieved by these changes, and preferred the old order of government. If the king was dead, they could support his eldest son, who was also called Charles, and who had fled to the Continent for safety. This feeling soon found expression in Ireland, where all classes, Catholics and Protestants alike, united to ask young Prince Charles to come amongst them. However, before he could reach them, Cromwell was there with his army, and

terrible work he did. He took by storm the two towns of Drogheda and Wexford, and soon beat down all opposition in Ireland.

3. In the meantime, Charles hastened to Scotland, where, on consenting to sign the Covenant, and submitting himself, as far as outward forms were concerned, to the guidance of the Presbyterians, he was accepted by the people as their king. He was crowned at Scone, near Perth, in the ancient abbey where all the early kings of Scotland had been crowned. Cromwell, with his resistless army, was soon upon his track, and in September 1650 he gained a great victory over the Scotch at Dunbar.

4. Prince Charles now determined to make a bold stand in England for the crown, hoping that the friends of his father would rise on his behalf. Collecting the scattered remains of his army, he marched across the Border, advancing as far as Worcester. Here he was overtaken by Cromwell, who, in September 1651, gained his last and crowning victory.

5. Prince Charles himself escaped, and took refuge in a lone house called Boscobel, on the border of Shropshire and Staffordshire, where he was protected by a labouring family of the name of Penderell. As a reward for their loyalty, pensions were afterwards bestowed upon them and their descendants, two of whom are still receiving small annuities.

6. During his stay at Boscobel, Charles hid himself one day among the leafy branches of a large oak-tree, where from his retreat he could see the soldiers searching for him. The oak-tree no longer exists, *but another* has been planted on the same spot, which

is carefully guarded, and is an object of interest to many visitors. Boscobel still remains much in the same condition as when Charles was hiding there.

7. For forty-four days he was wandering about as a fugitive chiefly in the west and south of England, and after many romantic adventures and escapes, he succeeded at last in finding a boat at Shoreham, in which he was carried to France. Nearly nine years passed away before Charles again saw his native land, when he returned as its king.

sole, only.
com'-mon-wealth, a state without a king.
con'-ti-nent, the mainland of Europe.
ab'-bey, a place where monks lived under the rule of an abbot.
re-sist'-less, irresistible.
loy'-al-ty, faithfulness to the king.
pen'-sions, sums of money paid regularly as rewards.
an-nu'-i-ties, sums paid every year.
fu'-gi-tive, a runaway.
ro-man'-tic, interesting.

LESSON XLV.

The Commonwealth.

1. All the old forms of government to which the people of England had been accustomed for some hundreds of years, were, as we have seen, now abolished. Charles I. was beheaded, and his son driven into exile. The use of the Book of Common Prayer was made a crime; and the clergymen who were opposed to these changes were compelled to give up their livings, and many of them were reduced to beggary. All the government was left in the hands of the fifty or sixty members of the House of Commons who had brought the king to the scaffold.

2. The real power, however, was in the hands of the army, and especially of Cromwell, who was its 'Lord-General.' The victories of Dunbar and Worcester had made him more powerful than ever. He wished the few members of the House of Commons to dissolve the House, that a new parliament might be called from the whole country. But seeing that they were unwilling to do this, he resolved that he himself would put an end to their meeting.

3. Leaving Whitehall, where he had been attending a conference, Cromwell hastened to the House of Commons, followed by a company of soldiers. Ordering the soldiers to remain at the door, he entered the House, taking his usual seat. After listening quietly for some time to the debate, he rose and began to speak. At first he commended the parliament for some of its actions; but he soon changed his tone, and began angrily to charge the members with serious faults.

4. When they attempted to stop him, he cried out: 'I 'll put an end to your prating! You are no parliament. Get you gone, and give way to honester men!' As he stamped his foot on the floor, the door suddenly opened, and in came some thirty armed soldiers ready to carry out the orders of their general.

5. 'Take him down,' he cried, pointing to the Speaker; 'take him down!' For a moment the Speaker hesitated, saying, 'I will not come down, unless I am forced.' Seeing, however, that resistance *was useless*, he left the chair and walked out of the

house, followed by fifty-three members. Cromwell, pointing to the mace, as it lay on the table in front of the Speaker's chair, said: 'Take away that bauble!' Then locking the door, and putting the key into his pocket, he returned to Whitehall.

6. An assembly of 140 persons, chosen by Cromwell and his officers, was now called together. It was nicknamed 'Barebone's Parliament,' from the name of one of the members, a leather-seller in London, who, in accordance with an odd custom of the Puritans, had assumed the strange name of 'Praise God Barebone!' They began to make many changes in the laws of the country, but in a few months they gave up their power into the hands of Cromwell.

7. In December 1653 the officers of the army brought forward a plan by which Cromwell was appointed 'Lord Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland,' a position which he retained until his death in 1658. He governed wisely, and made England respected and feared in all parts of Europe. He protected the Protestants wherever he could, and especially in Italy his decisive action prevented the Duke of Savoy from persecuting his Protestant subjects living in the Alpine valleys.

8. About the same time a war broke out with Spain, in the course of which the island of Jamaica was taken, and the foundation of England's power laid in the West Indies. The naval supremacy of England was established by the victories of the famous Blake. In spite, however, of all his successes, plots were continually formed against the life of the Protector, and he was sorely weighed down by

the cares of government, as well as by severe domestic troubles. His favourite daughter
1658 A.D. died, and within less than a month afterwards, on 3d September, the anniversary of the victories of Dunbar and Worcester, this remarkable man slept the sleep of death.

dis-solve', to separate.
de-bate', discussion.
com-mend', praise.
prat'-ing, talking nonsense.
mace, a rod of silver or gold, a sign of office.
bau'-ble, a trifle.
per'-se-cu-ting, treating cruelly.
na'-val, at sea.
su-pre'-ma-cy, the chief power.
do-mes'-tic, in his own house or family.
an-ni-ver'-sa-ry, the same day of the year.

LESSON XLVI.

Robert Blake.

1. During the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, the English navy first assumed that position of importance which has made England mistress of the sea. The Spanish Armada, in the time of Elizabeth, had been defeated as much by the force of the tempest as by the bravery of English seamen. A succession of gallant heroes, as we have seen, had gone forth in Elizabeth's reign to brave the perils of unknown seas and lands, and had made valuable discoveries; but it is to the undaunted courage and genius of Robert Blake that England especially owes the foundation of her naval power.

2. In early life Blake adopted the principles of the Puritan party, and when the civil war broke out, *he at* once joined the parliamentary side with a body

of troops which he had collected round Bridgewater, his native town, and in almost every action fought in the west of England he took part.

3. His most celebrated exploit during the war was the capture and defence of Taunton, an unwalled town between Bristol and Exeter. Blake had taken possession of this town within a week of the defeat of the royalist troops at Marston Moor. Every possible means were tried to drive him out; but all failed. They stormed him, they starved him, they battered him; but out of Taunton they could not get him. For a whole year Blake held his post, and successfully repelled two sieges, each occupying about three months. The town was reduced to ruins, but to the last Blake remained its master. The plans of the royalists were thrown into confusion by the gallant stand he made, and the victory of the parliament was thereby rendered more sure and decisive.

4. Even after the overthrow at Naseby, the English navy was inclined to support the king. During Charles's imprisonment, eleven ships boldly declared for him, and sailed over to Holland to Prince Charles. Prince Rupert, cousin of Prince Charles, took the command, and proceeded to attack and plunder any merchant-ship—not of England only, but of France or Spain—that he met at sea. Blake was summoned from Taunton, where he had been appointed governor, to assume the chief command at sea. The piracies of Rupert were put an end to, and, for the first time since the Crusades, an English fleet sailed into the Mediterranean.

5. In 1652, war broke out with the Dutch. The

celebrated Dutch admiral, Van Tromp, was at the head of a considerable fleet; and meeting Blake in the Downs, he inflicted upon him a serious defeat. This defeat proved to be the foundation of England's naval glory. Instead of sitting down in despair, Blake set himself to work with a strong determination to reform the navy, as Cromwell had previously reformed the army.

6. In the year following his defeat, he set out in search of his old enemy, Van Tromp, who had foolishly gone down the English Channel with a broom at his mast-head, as a token of his intention to sweep the seas clear of every foe; and a great sea-battle was fought off Portland. It lasted for three days, but the hard-won victory was Blake's.

7. The pirate states in the north of Africa, under whose cruel power many an unhappy European who had been kidnapped on the broad seas was pining away in slavery, were compelled to yield up their prey. The task of humbling Spain and crippling her resources was next intrusted to Blake, and most successfully was it carried out. His last warlike act was to attack the Spanish silver fleet, which had taken shelter at Santa Cruz in the island of Teneriffe. The harbour was so powerfully defended that it was thought impossible to make an attack upon it. But to Blake nothing seemed impossible. He tried, and he succeeded. In a few hours every vestige of the Spanish fleet was gone, and Blake sailed away without the loss of a single ship, and with considerable booty.

8. But his mighty spirit was giving way, and

the great commander felt he must come home to die. Yet one more task he must attempt. Christian captives were in the hands of the Sallee rovers on the north-west coast of Africa. These he resolved to free. Not a single shot was needed for the accomplishment of his noble object. The mere terror of his name was enough. The captives were released; and Blake, as gentle and humane as he was brave, then set sail for England; and as his vessel approached Plymouth, he breathed his last.

pro-tec'-tor-ate, government by a protector.
suc-ces'-sion, a number one after another.
prin'-ci-ples, opinions.
ex-ploit', deed.
re-pelled', defeated.
pi'-ra-cies, robberies at sea, as by a pirate.
cru-sades', the sending of armies to fight in the Holy Land against the Turks.
kid'-napped, stolen away by force.
crip'-pling, weakening.
re-sour'-ces, power.
ves'-tige, trace.
boot'-y, plunder.
ro'-vers, pirates.

LESSON XLVII.

The Restoration.

1. Richard Cromwell, Oliver's eldest son, became Protector on his father's death. Perhaps he might have made a very good ruler in quiet times, but during such a troubled period, he was utterly unfit to be at the head of the state. He was supported by his father's Council; but he was no soldier, and therefore could never obtain the confidence of the army. After a few months, he was glad to resign his office, and retire to a quiet farm, on which he lived to a good old age.

2. The officers of the army, who now held all the power in their own hands, felt that they could not attempt to govern in their own name, nor had they authority to summon a new parliament. Finding a few members of that Long Parliament which had

Richard Cromwell and his Council.

been so unceremoniously turned out in 1653, they summoned them to meet, in order to make the best arrangements they could for carrying on the government of the country. Only forty-two—the poor remains of an assembly that had once been all-powerful, and had humbled king, lords, and bishops into the dust—could be gathered together.

3. In the meantime, General Monk, who had been governing Scotland for Cromwell, advancing with a *body of* seven thousand troops from the North,

entered London, where he proposed that a free parliament should be summoned. When this new parliament met, its first act was to send a message to the exiled Charles, asking him to return to his native land as its king. The invitation was accepted; and on May 29, 1660—his thirtieth birthday—Charles II. entered London.

4. The joy of the people at the restoration of the monarchy was unbounded. A writer who was present tells us how the road was strewed with flowers, and the streets hung with tapestry; how the bells rang joy-peals, and fountains ran with wine; 'trumpets, music, and myriads of people flocking, even so far as from Rochester, so as they were seven hours in passing the city, even from two in the afternoon till nine at night.'

5. At Blackheath, the army was drawn up to welcome the king. Among them were many who had fought and won at Marston Moor and Naseby. They could not share the general joy, for it told them too plainly that all their work was undone. They stood by in sullen silence, and the officers kissed the royal hand with reluctance; but nothing was said or done to mar the rejoicing of the day. Within a very few months the army was disbanded, and the soldiers returned to their homes.

6. Many an old royalist who, for eleven long and dreary years since that terrible day when the head of Charles I. rolled on the scaffold, had been living in fear and trembling under a hated government, came forth from his hiding-place to welcome the young monarch. All wore sprays of oak in their coats, in

memory of the king's preservation in the oak-tree at Boscobel in September 1651. It is sad to think how little worthy of that warm and universal welcome the monarch proved.

7. Until very recently, a special service for the Restoration had a place in the Prayer-book; and still 'Royal Oak Day' is kept in many a village, with oak branches suspended from the windows, while young lads, waving sprigs of oak in their hands, salute the passer-by with the strange demand, 'Show your oak!' And still the notion prevails that this day is kept as the actual anniversary of the day in which Charles was in the oak-tree, instead of being the anniversary of his entry into London, and his Restoration to the throne of his ancestors.

re-sto-ra'-tion, a being brought back.
un-cer-e-mo'-ni-ous-ly, without ceremony, roughly.
myr'-i-ads, tens of thousands; very great numbers.
with re-luc'-tance, against their will.
dis-band'-ed, broken up, sent away.
pre-ser-va'-tion, a being kept safe.
sus-pend'-ed, hung up.

LESSON XLVIII.

The Old Cavalier.

[This poem, written by Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, is supposed to be spoken by an old Cavalier who had fought on the royal side at the battle of Naseby. Among other things, it describes the sadness and disappointment felt by so many Cavaliers who had lost their all during the civil war, but were neglected by Charles II. after the Restoration.]

For our martyred Charles, I pawned my plate,
For his son I spent my all,
That a churl might dine, and drink my wine,
And preach in my father's hall:

That father died on Marston Moor,
My son on Worcester plain;
But the king he turned his back on me,
When he got his own again.

I now am poor and lonely;
This cloak is worn and old,
But yet it warms my loyal heart,
Through sleet, and rain, and cold,
When I call to mind the Cavaliers,
Bold Rupert at their head,
Bursting through blood and fire, with cries
That might have waked the dead.

On the fatal field of Naseby,
Where Rupert lost the day,
By hanging on the flying crowd
Like a lion on his prey,
I stood and fought it out, until,
In spite of plate and steel,
The blood that left my veins that day
Flowed up above my heel.

And certainly it made those quail
Who never quailed before,
To look upon the awful front
Which Cromwell's horsemen wore.
I felt that every hope was gone,
When I saw their squadrons form,
And gather for the final charge,
Like the coming of the storm.

Oh! where was Rupert in that hour
Of danger, toil, and strife?

It would have been to all brave men
  Worth a hundred years of life,
To have seen that black and gloomy force
  As it pourèd down in line,
Met midway by the royal horse,
  And Rupert of the Rhine.

All this is over now, and I
  Must travel to the tomb—
Though the king I served has got his own—
  In poverty and gloom.
Well, well, I served him for himself,
  So I must not now complain;
But I often wish that I had died
  With my son on Worcester plain.

mar'-tyred, put to death as a martyr.
pawned, gave as security for money borrowed.
plate, dishes of gold or silver.
churl, low fellow.
quail, shrink with fear.
squad'-rons, bodies of cavalry.

Ru'-pert was the son of a sister of Charles I. His father was a German prince, whose lands were near the river Rhine; hence he is here called 'Rupert of the Rhine.' He commanded the royal cavalry with great gallantry during the civil war, but was rash and headstrong.

LESSON XLIX.

Charles II.

1. As we have seen, Charles II. ascended the throne amid the rejoicings of the whole people, who were weary of the sad and gloomy rule of the Puritans. A very different way of living was now adopted. The king himself was fond of pleasure, and those who *attended* his court followed his example. The long

curling hair, the lace collar, the dress adorned with ribbons and jewellery, the plumed hat of the gay cavalier, now took the place of the close-cropped hair and sober garments of the Puritan. Theatres were thronged, and everything around indicated the vast change that had taken place.

Charles II.

2. But this was not all. The king soon showed that during his years of exile he had learned no lessons of self-control. Pleasure was his chief pursuit; and all restraint, all sense of duty and virtue, were given up, while he followed out his selfish indulgences.

3. While Charles was laughing and joking, and amusing himself with his wicked companions, the parliament was occupied in punishing the men who had taken part in putting Charles I. to death. Ten of those who had condemned the late king were hanged, and the bodies of Cromwell and others who had taken a leading part were actually taken out of their graves and hung at Tyburn.

4. In the Cavalier Parliament, which met in 1661,

and was so called because the cavaliers were strong in it, the feeling against the Puritans was very bitter. The government of the church by bishops was restored; and the Prayer-book could alone be used at any religious service. Clergymen that did not agree to everything contained in it were expelled from their livings, and not allowed even to teach in schools. An Act was also passed which prevented Puritan laymen from holding any public office in towns.

5. Among those who suffered from this cruel persecution was John Bunyan, the author of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, a book that has probably been more widely read than any other book in the English language, except the Bible. John Bunyan was the son of a poor tinker at Elstow in Bedfordshire. He married very early; and so poor were he and his wife, that they could hardly muster a spoon or a plate between them.

6. He soon became famous as a preacher; and within six months of the Restoration he was sent to Bedford jail on a charge of preaching in unlicensed places. For twelve years he lingered in his cell, supporting himself by making boot-laces, and employing his leisure in writing some parts of his book, the *Pilgrim's Progress*.

7. His great anxiety while imprisoned was for his wife and four children, especially one, a poor blind child; yet no suffering would turn him from his purpose. He was asked to promise that he would preach no more; if he would only make that *promise*, his prison-doors would fly open. He loved

his liberty, he longed to be again with his family, but he could not dishonour his God. Such a promise he could not and would not make, and therefore he remained in prison. After his release, he became a popular preacher, and wrote a great many works; none of them, however, has been so famous as his *Pilgrim's Progress*.

8. One result of this persecution was that the Puritans gave up all hope of remaining in the Church of England. They began, therefore, to call themselves Dissenters, because they dissented from the Established Church, and wished to be left alone, and have chapels of their own.

9. A war broke out with the Dutch, in which at first the English were successful, but afterwards the advantage was on the side of the former. The Dutch fleet actually sailed up the Thames, set fire to three of our ships, and destroyed Sheerness, only forty miles from London. Never before had any enemy got so near London, and it is to be hoped they never will again. The whole country was in alarm, and the government was glad to make peace.

jew'-el-ler-y, precious stones.
cav-a-lier', follower of Charles I.
in-di-cat'-ed, showed.
self-con-trol', keeping one's self right.
pur-suit', employment, work.
in-dul'-gen-ces, pleasures.
tink'-er, mender of kettles, pans, &c.
un-li'-censed, without leave or license.
cell, room in a prison.
re-lease', a setting free.
dis-sent'-ed, differed in opinion.

LESSON L.

The Great Plague and the Great Fire.

1. While the Dutch war was going on, and the king was amusing himself at Whitehall, a terrible calamity befell London. This was the Great Plague. In a very interesting Diary written at the time by Samuel Pepys, we have the following entry, which gives one of the earliest notices of this awful visitation.

2. '*June* 7, 1665.—The hottest day that ever I felt in my life. This day, much against my will, I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and "Lord, have mercy upon us," writ there; which was a sad sight to me, being the first of the kind that to my remembrance I ever saw.'

3. In those days, plagues were no uncommon events. The Black Death, in the reign of Edward III., has already been mentioned. When we read of the narrow streets filled with filth, of the houses with low rooms badly ventilated and badly cleaned, and when we find how the simplest laws of health were neglected, we cannot wonder that fevers and plagues abounded. This plague in the reign of Charles II. was the worst, and happily the last of these frightful outbreaks.

4. The attack was very sudden. People were seen to drop in the streets as though they had been shot. *As the* summer advanced, the infection spread with

greater rapidity, so that the deaths each week were counted by thousands. The king and court fled from London. No one put on black, even for his nearest friends; but, we are told, 'the voice of mourning was truly heard in the streets; the shrieks of women and children at the windows and doors of their houses, where their nearest relations were perhaps dying, or just dead, were so frequent to be heard as we passed the streets, that it was enough to pierce the stoutest heart in the world to hear them.'

5. The streets were deserted, and all trade was stopped. The red cross painted on the door of a house told the sad tale of the infection raging within; and night after night the dead-cart passed along, while the driver, ringing his bell, cried out: 'Bring out your dead!' The bodies of the dead were huddled into the cart, and taken away, to be thrown into a large hole, and covered with lime. During one week in September, upwards of ten thousand people died in London alone.

6. Many tried to escape from danger by living in boats on the river, and fathers of families left their homes in the hope of being able to earn something for their children in some place of safety. They put money, or even food, on the door-step of their houses, or in some hiding-place, and then went away for some distance, while some member of the family came out to get it. When the colder weather set in, the infection began to die out, but for some time it continued to linger.

7. During the following year, a terrible fire broke

out in London, which lasted for three days and nights, and burned down more than half the city, including St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Exchange, about a hundred parish churches, and a vast number of other public buildings. A strong east wind was blowing, and the summer had been one of the hottest and driest known for many years. The houses, crowded in narrow streets, were chiefly built of wood, so that everything favoured the progress of the devouring flames.

1666 A.D.

8. An eye-witness tells us, 'the conflagration was so universal, and the people so astonished, that from the beginning they hardly stirred to quench it, so that there was nothing heard or seen but crying out and lamentation, running about like distracted creatures, without at all attempting to save even their goods.'

9. This writer goes on to say: 'All the sky was of a fiery aspect, like the top of a burning oven, the light seen above forty miles round about for many nights. God grant my eyes may never behold the like, now seeing above ten thousand houses all in one flame. The noise and cracking and thunder of the impetuous flames, the shrieking of women and children, the hurry of people, the fall of towers, houses, and churches, was like a hideous storm; and the air all about so hot and inflamed that at last one was not able to approach it, so that they were forced to stand and let the flames burn on, which they did for near two miles in length and one in breadth. The clouds of smoke were dismal, and reached upon *computation* near fifty miles in length. Thus I left

it this afternoon burning, a resemblance of Sodom or the last day. London was, but is no more!'

10. Out of this terrible misfortune, lasting good has come. The houses of wood have been replaced by those of stone; and many of the narrow streets where fever and plague could so easily lurk, were replaced by wider and healthier ones.

cal-am'-i-ty, disaster.
di'-ar-y, a little book in which one writes what happens from day to day.
no'-tic-es, mentions.
re-mem'-brance, memory.
ven'-til-at-ed, aired.
in-fec'-tion, spreading of disease, taint.
ra-pid'-i-ty, quickness.
pro'-gress, spread.
con-fla-gra'-tion, burning.
un-i-ver'-sal, found everywhere.
la-men-ta'-tion, weeping aloud.
im-pet'-u-ous, furious.
hid'-e-ous, horrid.
com-pu-ta'-tion, counting up.
re-sem'-blance, likeness.

LESSON LI.

The Latter Years of Charles II.

1. Among the many cruel laws passed in this reign against those who did not conform to the Established Church, was one called the Test Act, by which every officer under the crown was compelled to receive the sacrament according to the forms of the Church of England. This, of course, kept out of office all Roman Catholics and Dissenters. But while it was very unjust to them, it was far more injurious to the church itself, as it degraded its most solemn act of worship.

2. In Scotland, measures of unusual harshness were adopted to compel the people to accept the same church as in England. Those ministers who would not accept the rule of bishops were turned

out of their parishes. Religious worship was held upon the hill-side, or in mountain glens, while sentinels kept watch, and arms were ready, in case an attack should be made upon a congregation during the service. Those who thus resisted the government were called Covenanters, because they had signed the Covenant, pledging themselves to resist the rule of bishops and the introduction of the Prayer-book. More than once the Covenanters were driven into rebellion, but, being defeated, only had the worse sufferings to endure.

3. While Dissenters in England and Covenanters in Scotland were thus persecuted, the dread of Roman Catholicism increased in the nation. The king's brother, the Duke of York, afterwards James II., had publicly adopted the Roman Catholic religion; and the king, though he cared little for any religion, was also believed to favour that church. As Charles's queen had no children, the Duke of York would naturally succeed him as king; and the nation dreaded a Roman Catholic sovereign.

4. At this crisis, a man of bad character, Titus Oates, spread a report that a plot had been formed by the Catholics to kill the king, burn London, and murder all the Protestants. The memory of the Gunpowder Plot was still fresh in the minds of the people, and the tales of Titus Oates were believed. Many Roman Catholics were put to death or imprisoned, while some thousands were driven out of London, and forbidden to come within twenty miles of the city.

5. Oates was rewarded with a handsome pension,

and lodged in the palace of Whitehall. Other men equally vile came forward with similar tales, hoping to get rewarded for their pains; but at last their stories were disbelieved, and the panic ceased. In the following reign, Oates had to stand in the pillory, to receive a severe public whipping, and to suffer a long imprisonment.

6. About this time a Bill was introduced into parliament to exclude the Duke of York from the throne because he was a Catholic. After long debate, this Bill, termed the Exclusion Bill, was rejected by the House of Lords. It was during those debates, however, that the names Whig and Tory came into common use. The word Whig, originally applied to the Covenanters of the west of Scotland, was now given to those who supported the Exclusion Bill. Tory, at first a name for certain wild Irish robbers, became the nickname of the friends of the Duke of York.

7. The one bright spot in this reign is the passing of a very important law called the Habeas Corpus Act. This Act prevents any one from being kept in prison beyond a certain time without public trial.

8. The last important event of this reign was the Rye House Plot to murder the king and his brother, and to place on the throne the Duke of Monmouth, an illegitimate son of Charles. The intention was to shoot the king on his return from Newmarket races, near a lonely house called the Rye House. The conspiracy was discovered, and the leading Whigs, who were not concerned in the plot, but who wished merely a change of government,

were accused of having a share in it. Some of them were put to death; the Duke of Monmouth fled to Holland.

9. Charles died in 1685. On his death-bed, he declared himself a Roman Catholic, though all his life he had pretended to be a Protestant.

con-form' to, agree with.
in-ju'-ri-ous, harmful.
sol'-emn, sacred.
meas'-ures, plans.
sen'-ti-nels, men set to keep watch.
con-gre-ga'-tion, religious meeting.
cov'-e-nant, agreement.
in-tro-duc'-tion, bringing in.
pen'-sion, stated payment of money for past services.
pan'-ic, great fear.
ex-clu'-sion, a shutting out.
il-le-git'-i-mate, said of one whose parents were not married.

LESSON LII.

The Beginnings of Science.

1. The period we have been describing in the last few lessons was one of strife and division, of civil war and bitter religious persecution; but happily other and nobler work was also going on. After the Restoration, an unusual interest in natural science, and in the study of the world around and above us, was awakened in the country.

2. Previous to this time, very few important discoveries in science had been made in England. In the reign of Elizabeth, Gilbert began the study of the interesting science of electricity, which is now producing such wonderful results. In the reign of James I., Dr Harvey made the great discovery of the circulation of the blood, though it was not published until the commencement of the *reign of* Charles I. This important discovery was

doubted and ridiculed at first, but was soon generally accepted.

3. The writings of Francis Bacon in the reign of James I. greatly promoted the study of science. This distinguished man was Lord Chancellor of England under James, but was deprived of his office on being found guilty of receiving bribes. This was a great stain on his character; but it has not prevented men from acknowledging his services as a writer and thinker.

4. It was not, however, until the strife of the civil war was ended, and the Restoration gave hopes of a more quiet and peaceful time, that the influence of Bacon's writings and example was fully felt. Science became a fashion, and even the pleasure-loving Charles took great interest in it. Shortly after the Restoration, the Royal Society was formed, which received his patronage. The establishment of this Society marks the commencement of a great age of scientific discovery.

5. The discovery made by Copernicus, a native of Poland, of the earth's revolution round the sun, now became generally known, and gave new life and importance to the study of astronomy. The Royal Observatory at Greenwich was erected at this period to promote the study of that science in this country.

6. The improvement of the microscope, by which the smallest things are made visible, helped forward the same great movement. In every department great advances were made, and valuable discoveries announced. The whole character of medical treatment was also changed for the better.

7. But among all the distinguished men of science of that period, the name of Sir Isaac Newton stands deservedly prominent. While the civil war was raging, Newton was playing in the fields at Woolsthorpe in Lincolnshire; and during the time of the Protectorate, he was studying at the grammar-school at Grantham, where he rose to be head of the school. It was while a student at Cambridge, that he was led by the fall of an apple to the discovery of the great law of gravitation, by which all bodies are attracted as by an invisible power towards the centre of the earth.

Greenwich Observatory.

8. These wonderful advances in science had a very marked effect in weakening the superstitions which had prevailed so long. The belief in witchcraft, which had caused endless sorrow and suffering, and *had* been the cause of the cruel death of many

innocent persons, began slowly but surely to give way. The absurdities of astrology, by which men were led to fancy that they could read their fortunes by the stars, were displaced by the revelations of the noble science of astronomy. Men were taught to think and inquire for themselves, and to trust to better and nobler ways of establishing truth than by passing persecuting laws, and inflicting tortures on those who differed from them.

cir-cu-la'-tion, a moving round.
pub'-lished, made publicly known.
rid'-i-culed, laughed at.
in'-flu-ence, power.
pat'-ron-age, favour, encouragement.
re-vo-lu'-tion, a going round.
as-tron'-o-my, the study of the stars.
ob-ser'-va-to-ry, place for looking at the stars.
at-tract'-ed, drawn.
in-vis'-i-ble, that cannot be seen.
ab-surd'-i-ties, foolish things.
rev-e-la'-tions, discoveries.
in-flict'-ing, laying on.

LESSON LIII.

James II.—Monmouth's Rebellion.

1. James II., brother of Charles, succeeded to the throne. James had two daughters living—Mary, who was married to William, Prince of Orange, and Anne, who had become the wife of Prince George of Denmark. Both ladies afterwards became queens of England.

2. His public profession of the Roman Catholic religion, and his second marriage to Mary of Modena, a strict adherent of that religion, rendered him very unpopular; but by giving a solemn public assurance that he would maintain the laws and

privileges both of church and state, for a time he lulled the suspicions of the people.

3. He very soon, however, showed his real intentions by attending mass publicly in the royal chapel, and by ordering certain duties to be raised on his own authority, which could not be done legally until parliament had approved them. All his fine promises were speedily broken, and his professions of religion did not prevent him from being a cruel, insincere, and untruthful man.

4. Within a few months of James's accession, a rebellion broke out. The Duke of Monmouth, an illegitimate son of Charles II., had fled, as we have seen, into Holland, after the discovery of the Rye House Plot. There he was joined by the Earl of Argyll and other refugees from Scotland. The earl was to head an attempt in Scotland to deprive James of his crown; and shortly afterwards the Duke of Monmouth was to land in England, where it was hoped his great popularity, and the general distrust of the king, would induce the people to rise in his favour.

5. Argyll's attempt was a very unfortunate one. The earl himself was taken prisoner, and beheaded in Edinburgh, a short time after Monmouth had effected a landing in England.

6. In June 1685, the Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire, with about eighty followers. His arrival was hailed with joy. At Taunton every house showed signs of welcome, and banners and a Bible were presented to the duke by a train of *young girls*. The number of his followers increased

to some thousands, but they were unarmed and untrained. The gentry, however, held aloof from him.

7. At Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater, Monmouth's brave but irregular army was defeated by the royal troops. Monmouth hoped to surprise the king's army by night, but between him and his foes three wide ditches lay, by which the moor was drained. While passing the second of these ditches, a pistol which was discharged by accident, alarmed the sentinels of the opposing forces; and of the third ditch, Monmouth, by some strange mistake, had never been told.

8. His men fought bravely, but their ammunition fell short, and Monmouth fled from the field, leaving some hundreds of his followers lying dead on the ground. Thus ended the last fight deserving the name of battle that has been fought on English ground. Nearly two hundred years have passed since then, and it is fervently to be hoped that our land may never again be reddened by the bloodshed of war.

9. A few days after the battle, the unhappy Monmouth was found, disguised as a shepherd, hiding in

a ditch. His face was unshaven, and a few raw peas were found in his pockets, which he had gathered to stay his hunger. He trembled greatly, and was unable to speak. He begged hard for life; but his uncle, James II., was not the man to forgive. He permitted his nephew to have an interview with him; but it was of no avail, and the unhappy Monmouth perished on the scaffold.

10. Then followed scenes of cruel butchery, which have left a lasting stain on the character of James. Large numbers of rebels were hanged at Taunton by Colonel Kirke without the form of a trial. The jails in the neighbourhood were crowded with captives, and a brutal judge, called Jeffreys, was sent by James into the west to try the rebels. He acted with the greatest cruelty and harshness, and his trials will always be known as 'the Bloody Assize.' The country was covered with gibbets, and even school-girls, who had given banners to Monmouth, were sent to prison. The character of Jeffreys is shown by his boast, that he had hanged more traitors than all his predecessors put together since the time of William the Conqueror, upwards of six hundred years before. And yet this infamous man was rewarded by the king, and made Lord Chancellor.

pro-fes'-sion, open acknowledgment.
ad-her'-ent, follower.
lulled, kept quiet.
re-fu-gees', those who had fled.
ir-reg'-u-lar, not trained.
sur-prise', take unawares.
am-mu-ni'-tion, powder and shot.
dis-guised', concealed in dress or manner.
in'-ter-view, meeting.
gib'-bets, places for hanging men on.
pre-de-ces'-sors, those who went before.

as-size', court held for trying prisoners.

LESSON LIV.

The Trial of the Seven Bishops.

1. James thought that, by the aid of such men as Kirke and Jeffreys, his own position had been secured, and he proceeded to carry out the design nearest to his heart of again uniting England to the Church of Rome. He felt that the Church of England was the one great obstacle to his plans, and every effort was made to weaken and cripple that church.

2. His first attack was upon the universities, which had always been most loyal to the throne during all the dark days of the civil war. Roman Catholics were thrust into high office in the university of Oxford; and the Vice-Chancellor of the university of Cambridge, the highest resident dignitary of the university, was turned out of his office because he refused to admit a Roman Catholic to a degree, as contrary to the statutes. The Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, were deprived of their fellowships, because they refused to elect as their president the man whom the king recommended.

3. In 1688, the king issued by his own authority a Declaration of Indulgence, allowing every one to worship God in his own way. This seemed to be a very wise step, and the king hoped that all the Non-conformists would become his firm friends for thus granting to them freedom from the cruel laws which had been passed in the last reign. By this means he thought the Church of England would be sorely weakened.

4. But he was grievously mistaken. People began to ask what right the king had to issue any such declaration. Could he of his own will undo all the parliament had done? The Nonconformists saw very clearly that the king had no real wish to help *them*, and if they were to have any indulgence, it must come to them in a right and proper way through parliament; and, with very few exceptions, they refused to accept the bait the king had thrown out to them.

5. This Declaration was ordered to be publicly read in every church on two successive Sundays. Seven bishops, who hastily met in conference, signed a paper, which they handed to the king, stating that as the Declaration was illegal, they could not read it publicly. On the first Sunday when the Declaration was appointed to be read in the London churches, the order was obeyed only in four, and in each of these the congregation immediately left the church.

6. The king, maddened by rage, determined to strike one more blow, and ordered the seven bishops who had signed the document stating their refusal to read the Declaration, to be arrested and sent to the Tower. After a short confinement, the bishops were brought to trial. The jury declared them 'Not guilty.' No sooner were these words uttered, than loud shouts of joy rent the air, while strong men wept for very joy.

7. At night every house was illuminated with rows of seven candles, with a larger one in the *centre to* represent the Archbishop of Canterbury,

who had nobly taken his place at the head of the bishops in protesting against the king's illegal proceedings. Bonfires blazed on every side, and the nation rejoiced with a thrill of joy that the king was defeated.

8. One of these seven bishops deserves special mention. Many children know that simple and beautiful evening hymn, beginning with the words:

> All praise to Thee, my God, this night,
> For all the blessings of the light.

The author of that hymn was Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and one of those who had dared to oppose the king in a course of wrong-doing, and who shared with his brethren the dangers of that celebrated trial. This was not the first time he had dared to stand up for the right. In earlier days, when residing at Winchester, he was requested to receive one of King Charles's wicked companions into his house; but he told the king he would not do it for his kingdom. The king honoured his spirit, and appointed him Bishop of Bath and Wells. There have been few nobler and more faithful bishops of the Church of England than the author of the Evening Hymn.

pro-ceed'-ed, went on.
ob'-sta-cle, hinderance.
res'-i-dent, living there.
dig'-ni-ta-ry, great man.
stat'-utes, laws.
e-lect', choose.
de-clar-a'-tion, paper stating something important.
suc-ces'-sive, one after another.
con'-fer-ence, meeting.
il-le'-gal, against law.
doc'-u-ment, paper.
il-lu'-mi-nat-ed, lighted up.
re-pre-sent', stand for.
pro-ceed'-ings, doings, acts.

LESSON LV.

The Song of the Western Men.

[One of the seven bishops tried during the reign of James II. was Sir John Trelawney, Bishop of Bristol. Trelawney belonged to an ancient and popular Cornish family. The following song, written by a Cornish clergyman, the Rev. R. S. Hawker, describes the feelings of the Cornish men when they heard of the danger that threatened a member of the much-loved house.]

A good sword and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do.

And have they fixed the where and when,
And shall Trelawney die?
Here 's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Out spake their captain brave and bold,
A merry wight was he:
'If London Tower were Michael's hold,
We 'll set Trelawney free!

'We 'll cross the Tamar, land to land;
The Severn is no stay—
With one and all, and hand in hand,
And who shall bid us nay?

'And when we come to London wall,
A pleasant sight to view,
Come forth! come forth, ye cowards all!
Here 's men as good as you.

'Trelawney lies in keep and hold,
Trelawney he may die;
But here's twenty thousand Cornish bold
Will know the reason why!'

wight, man; fellow. | **in keep and hold,** in a castle; imprisoned.

Michael's hold, a castle in Cornwall, three miles east of Penzance. It stands on St Michael's Mount, which is nearly 200 feet high.

LESSON LVI.

The Revolution.

1. Hitherto one hope had sustained the nation under the tyranny of James. His children, Mary and Anne, were Protestants, and Mary was the wife of William, Prince of Orange, who was the leading Protestant in Europe at that time. At the king's death, this Mary would naturally succeed to the throne of England, and all that James had done would be undone. Civil war was dreaded above everything, so the people thought it better to wait than to rebel.

2. But during the excitement of the great trial of the seven bishops, an event happened which entirely altered the state of affairs. A son was born to the king, who by the law of England would succeed to the throne before his older sisters. Men now began to see that it was time to act with energy.

3. Accordingly, on the very day that the bells of a hundred churches were clashing in joyous celebration of the acquittal of the bishops, while thou-

sands were busy piling up fagots for the bonfires which were to mark the night of joy, a few of the leading noblemen of England sent an invitation to William, Prince of Orange, asking him to accept the throne of England, and to come at once to deliver the land from the hateful tyranny of James.

4. The invitation was accepted. William landed at Torbay in Devonshire with fifteen thousand men, and was soon joined by a large number of the nobility and gentry. James, on the other hand, was deserted by all. His one hope was in the army, which he had always treated with marked distinction; but his generals forsook him. Even his own daughter, Princess Anne, and her husband, Prince George of Denmark, left him and joined William.

Nov. 5, 1688 A.D.

5. His only safety lay in flight. His wife and infant, scarcely six months old, were sent off to France; while the king himself slipped out of his palace of Whitehall during the dark hours of an early December morning, and reached Sheerness on the Thames, where a vessel was waiting for him. Scarcely, however, had the fugitive king set sail, when the vessel was boarded, and James was seized and brought back to London. However, a second attempt was made, and James succeeded in reaching France, where he received a warm welcome from the French king. The palace of St Germain, about ten miles from Paris, was given to him as a residence, where he spent the remaining years of his life.

6. William, Prince of Orange, and his wife Mary, *eldest* daughter of James, were now invited to take

the vacant throne. A very important Act of Parliament, called the Bill of Rights, was drawn up, showing how far the king's power could go, and securing the liberties of the people; so that in future it might be impossible for any sovereign to act in the way in which the self-willed and tyrannical James had done.

7. These events are known by the name of the Revolution of 1688. Exactly a hundred years before, in 1588, England was delivered from the tyranny of a foreign power by the destruction of the Spanish Armada, and now by this revolution she was freed from the tyranny of bad government at home. Well might it be called glorious, for while it was achieved almost without bloodshed, it finally secured the liberties of the English people.

re-vol-u'-tion, great change.
sus-tained', kept up.
cel-e-bra'-tion, keeping of a day.
ac-quit'-tal, freeing.
de-sert'-ed, left.
res'-i-dence, place to live.
ty-ran'-ni-cal, despotic.
a-chieved', gained.

LESSON LVII

Men of England.

Men of England! who inherit
  Rights that cost your sires their blood!
Men whose undegenerate spirit
  Has been proved on field and flood:

By the foes you 've fought uncounted,
  By the glorious deeds ye 've done,
Trophies captured—breaches mounted,
  Navies conquered—kingdoms won!

Yet, remember, England gathers
Hence but fruitless wreaths of fame,
If the freedom of your fathers
Glow not in your hearts the same.

What are monuments of bravery,
Where no public virtues bloom?
What avail in lands of slavery,
Trophied temples, arch, and tomb?

Pageants!—Let the world revere us
For our people's rights and laws,
And the breasts of civic heroes
Bared in Freedom's holy cause.

Yours are Hampden's, Russell's glory,
Sidney's matchless shade is yours—
Martyrs in heroic story,
Worth a hundred Agincourts!

We're the sons of sires that baffled
Crowned and mitred tyranny;
They defied the field and scaffold
For their birthrights—so will we!

Campbell.

sires, fathers.
un-de-gen'-er-ate, not having become base.
troph'-ies, things taken in war.
breach'-es, breaks in the wall of a fortress.
a-vail', profit, help.
pa'-geants, grand shows.
civ'-ic, belonging to the country, national.
baf'-fled, beat, defeated.
mi'-tred, priestly.

John Hampden was one of the great leaders of the parliament against Charles I. He refused to pay ship-money in 1637.

Lord Russell and **Algernon Sidney** opposed the tyrannical measures of Charles II. Both were put to death on a false charge of being concerned in the Rye House Plot (1683).

LESSON LVIII.

London and other Towns in the time of Charles II.

1. At the time of the Restoration, London contained about half a million of people; but though vastly smaller than the London of to-day, with a population of four millions, it was then considered very large, for there was no other town in England that contained more than thirty thousand inhabitants, and only four or five that had a population of more than ten thousand.

2. Chelsea, which is now a part of London with a population of seventy or eighty thousand, was then a quiet country village with about a thousand people. Cattle then grazed, and sportsmen wandered with dogs and guns close by the busy and crowded streets that now surround Euston Station. One solitary bridge, overhung by a number of wretched houses, crossed the river, in place of the splendid bridges over which a stream of carriages and people are now constantly hurrying.

3. The stranger passing along the crowded pavement of Regent Street, admiring its magnificent shops, will find it hard to believe that two hundred years ago it was a solitude, where woodcocks could be shot.

4. After the Great Fire in 1666, new houses rose again with remarkable rapidity. Though built of much better material, unfortunately they followed the old lines of the narrow streets. These streets

have had to be widened gradually since then, in order to make room for the increased traffic.

5. The condition of the London streets was still deplorable; they were often covered with mud and litter, and the gutters were deluged with filth. Bands of thieves, and of gentlemen behaving like savages, infested them at night, making it unsafe for quiet citizens to stir abroad. It was

Coach of the Period.

considered a marvellous improvement when one Edward Hemming, in 1685, undertook to light the streets. This improvement consisted in posting a lantern before every tenth door on moonless nights in winter. The shop-fronts were still distinguished by curious figures, which served as signs; they were not marked with their number and the name of the occupier, as at present. This was necessary among a people so few of whom were able to read.

6. Tea and coffee were both introduced into

England in the middle of the seventeenth century. Coffee was the first to become a favourite drink; it was in general esteem in the reign of Charles II. Tea did not become popular till the time of Queen Anne. The coffee-houses of London soon grew into great national institutions. The daily newspaper did not make its appearance at breakfast every morning in those days, and it was extremely difficult to get information about public events. So men made a habit of meeting in the coffee-houses, where they heard and discussed the news.

7. Bristol stood next in importance to London. Though it now contains seven times as many people as it did then, it has not grown so quickly as many other towns. It was the great port for American trade, and many of its ships were engaged in carrying negro slaves to the colonies beyond the Atlantic. The streets of Bristol were mere alleys compared with those of the present day, though even now the city is not remarkable for good streets. Two hundred years ago, they were too narrow for carriages, and goods were carried about in small carts drawn by dogs.

8. Norwich was the principal seat of the woollen manufacture, the oldest, and for a long time the most important, manufacture of England. A city of less than thirty thousand people then, it has nearly ninety thousand now. York and Exeter were thought large in having ten thousand.

9. Manchester, now the busy centre of the great cotton-trade, had then only six thousand inhabitants, and could boast neither of a printing-press nor of a

single hackney-coach. Now, Manchester and Salford between them give a home to half a million souls. Liverpool, now the second city of England, with five hundred and fifty thousand people, was then a small port of four thousand inhabitants.

10. Leeds had a population of about seven thousand. Though the knives of Sheffield had long been famous, the trade cannot have been very large, as the town did not contain more than four thousand people. Halifax had a thriving cloth-trade. The buttons of Birmingham were already known, and its smiths, cutlers, and hardware manufacturers were prosperous. Yet the town was no larger than Sheffield. Its only supply of books came from a single book-stall opened on market-days. A glance at the book-shops in one street alone of the Birmingham of to-day, New Street, will show how matters have improved since then.

11. Bath was foremost of the inland watering-places, and to it invalids came from far and near. Four or five hundred houses crowded round the Abbey Church within an old wall, formed the whole of the city. Poor patients lay on straw in wretched lodgings; while in the better houses the floors of the dining-rooms were without carpets.

12. Buxton was visited by gentry from the neighbourhood, who were attracted by the reputation of its mineral spring. Near that spring one good house was standing, while the other lodgings consisted of low rooms under bare rafters. The splendid streets which now adorn the town were then undreamt of. Cheltenham and Brighton, each of which is

now larger than Bristol was then, were not known as watering-places. Seaside resorts were not thought of, as the practice of sea-bathing did not come into use until the middle of the following century.

sol'-i-tude, lonely place.
ma-te'-ri-al, stuff.
de-plor'-a-ble, to be lamented.
de'-luged, overflowing.
in-fest'-ed, disturbed, made unsafe.
mar'-vel-lous, very great.
in-sti-tu'-tions, things established.
dis-cussed', talked about.
in'-val-ids, people in weak health.
re-sorts', places to go to.

LESSON LIX.

Social Condition under the Stuarts, 1603–1688—I.

1. During the seventeenth century, very great changes were made in the outward appearance of many parts of the country, especially in the eastern counties. A large part of the level land in the eastern counties, including parts of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and Norfolk, was covered with water, with here and there an island peeping out from the surrounding waste. On one of these islands, the stately cathedral of Ely was built, though the site is no longer an island except in name.

2. James I. took great interest in the improvement of these lands. He called in the assistance of a celebrated engineer from Holland, who successfully carried out the scheme of draining a vast portion of land, although he met with considerable opposition from the people of the neighbourhood. Many thousand acres of rich land were thus added to the resources of the country.

3. James also deserves to be remembered for the

encouragement he gave to Hugh Myddleton, who furnished London with a very valuable supply of water, by forming the New River, and thus bringing water from Hertfordshire to Islington. The statue of the illustrious Myddleton, as one of London's greatest benefactors, now stands on Islington Green, marking the spot where his New River ends.

4. At the present day, when we have railway trains that carry us over the country at the speed of fifty miles an hour, it is impossible to realise the difficulty of travelling in the olden times. In large districts there was nothing that deserved the name of a road; and where roads did exist, they were exceedingly bad. Vehicles had painfully to be dragged through deep ruts; frequently they stuck fast in the mud, and could be got out only with the utmost difficulty.

5. When we read of our ancestors travelling in a coach-and-six, as they generally did, we are apt to suppose they were a very showy and extravagant people. It was, however, no extravagance, but a simple necessity. The roads were so bad, that without six, or at the least four horses, it was impossible to get along.

6. This difficulty of travelling had very striking results, which should not be overlooked. One result was that most people did not travel at all. They stayed at home, saw very little of the world beyond their own district, and consequently were both ignorant and prejudiced. Travelling was a luxury that could be enjoyed only by the very rich. Another *result was the* frequency of famine in different dis-

tricts. The people in Yorkshire might be almost starving for want of bread, while those in Kent had more corn than they knew what to do with.

7. A very serious hinderance to travelling was the danger arising from the numerous highwaymen who infested every main road. This danger was much increased by the civil war, as many cavaliers, being entirely ruined in the king's service, turned to highway robbery, and often ended their lives on the gallows.

8. Hopeful signs of improvement, however, were apparent. In 1669 the public was surprised by the startling announcement that a vehicle called the 'Flying Coach' would perform the journey from Oxford to London in a single day. It started from Oxford at six o'clock in the morning, and arrived in London at seven in the evening. At the close of the reign of Charles II., coaches ran three times a week from London to the chief towns, but none went farther north than York, or farther west than Exeter.

9. To Charles I. we owe the beginnings of our post-office system. Arrangements were made to carry letters between London and Edinburgh and some other towns. For a time, the war put an end to the arrangement, but it was renewed and extended on the return of peace. The post-bags were carried on horseback at the rate of five miles an hour, but in many country places letters were delivered only once a week.

10. In the reign of James I., packets of news were occasionally published in the shape of small pamphlets. The first weekly newspaper was issued in 1622.

though it was a very poor affair compared with our penny papers. The first daily paper did not appear until 1702.

11. There were no newspapers at all outside London, or even scarcely a printing-press, except in the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The only printing-press in England north of the river Trent, was in York. Once every week a newsletter was despatched from London to different parts of the country, giving all the news and the gossip of the coffee-houses; and no part of the load carried out by the old mails was more eagerly watched for than this weekly budget. There were persons in London whose occupation it was to prepare these letters.

12. The punishments for theft were excessively severe. Hundreds of men were hanged every year for stealing trifling articles, though very frequently the poor wretches were saved from the gallows by dying of fever caught in the filthy and unwholesome prisons.

en-gin-eer', one who directs the making of great works, such as railways, canals, &c.
re-sour'-ces, riches.
il-lus'-tri-ous, famous.
ben-e-fac'-tors, those who do good.
re-al-ise', understand.
ve'-hi-cles, carriages.
pre'-ju-diced, wrong in opinion.
an-nounce'-ment, public notice.
de-spatched', sent off.
bud'-get, bag of news.

LESSON LX.

Social Condition under the Stuarts, 1603–1688—II.

1. The houses of the wealthier classes were large and commodious. Stags' heads, muskets, swords, *and coats* of armour were hung as ornaments round

the hall, while paintings were usually found in the inner rooms. A taste for painting was encouraged by Charles I. Van Dyck, a celebrated Flemish painter, passed the best years of his life in England under the patronage of that unfortunate monarch.

2. During the unsettled state of the country after the Restoration, when Cromwell's army had just been disbanded, it was resolved to keep up a small force permanently. The only army recognised by law before this time was the militia, to the support of which every person was obliged to contribute according to his income. This small and irregular force was called out for a few days' drill every year. Under Charles II., the whole standing army never exceeded nine thousand. In the reign of James II. it reached thirty thousand, as that monarch hoped—but happily hoped in vain—that by the help of such an army he would be able to carry out his design of overthrowing both the religion and the liberties of England.

3. The belief in witchcraft and other superstitions was still prevalent during this period. The gallant cavalier who feared no enemy in the battlefield, trembled if a hare crossed his path, or the salt was upset at his table. James I. was proud of his learning on witchcraft, and wrote a book in support of it. He put his belief into practice by torturing and putting to death a poor old woman in Scotland, who was believed to have raised a storm as the king came from Denmark after his marriage to the daughter of the king of that country. This superstition, as we have seen, began to die out after the Restoration.

4. The amusements which were most popular before the outbreak of the civil war were generally cruel and degrading, such as bull-baiting and bear-baiting. When the Puritan party became the ruling power, they denounced as sinful the common amusements of the time, and put them down with a strong hand. The joyous festivals of the church were turned into fasts. Ornaments were removed from the churches, and the use of organs was forbidden. Cromwell, however, who was a great lover of music, had an organ in the palace at Hampton Court, where he often retired to spend the Sunday.

5. Before the outbreak of the civil war, the dress of both ladies and gentlemen was marked by great extravagance. The ladies had paint and patches on their faces, and tried to outdo one another in the amount of gold which they could show embroidered on their silks and satins. A broad-brimmed hat adorned with feathers; the long and curling hair shown off by a splendid lace collar; a short cloak hanging over one shoulder; silk stockings, and shoes ornamented with rosettes; a sword-belt with a sword attached; and all set off with jewels and gold lace, marked the gay and lordly cavalier.

6. But not so the Puritan. No jewels glittered on his person; no lace collar hung on his shoulder; no silks or satins rustled as he walked. With plain black clothes, long cloak, and high steeple-hat, he plodded on in his daily life, scorning all amusements, as one who had a serious work to do.

7. To the Puritans belonged one of England's *greatest* writers and thinkers, John Milton, the

author of *Paradise Lost.* He inherited from his father an intense love of music, and considerable skill in playing on the lute and organ. He was one of the best scholars of his time.

8. Milton fought most zealously for the Puritan cause, not with his sword, but with his pen; and in his devotion to it he sacrificed his eyesight. At the Restoration, he went into concealment for a time, while some of the books he had written against the government of Charles I. were burned by the common hangman, as a mark of contempt. In the quiet retirement of his old age, in solitude and blindness, he wrote his great work.

9. The excessive restrictions imposed by the Puritans caused a terrible reaction at the time of the Restoration, which was increased by the bad example of Charles II. For a time all the bounds of morality seemed to be forgotten, and excess of all kinds was freely indulged in. The story of England's history is, however, a story of steady and advancing growth; and if it teaches nothing else, it surely ought to make us thankful that our lot is cast in the brighter and more peaceful days of good Queen Victoria.

com-mo'-di-ous, roomy.
pat'-ron-age, favour; protection.
dis-band'-ed, sent away home.
per'-ma-nent-ly, always.
re-cog-nised', allowed.
ros-ettes', pieces of ribbon made into the form of a rose.
in-tense', very great.
de-vo'-tion to, love for.
suc'-ri-ficed, gave up, lost.
sol'-i-tude, loneliness.
re-stric'-tions, checks.
re-ac'-tion, change the other way.
ad-vanc'-ing, going on.

LIST OF DATES.

LATER PLANTAGENETS.

	A.D.
Edward III.	1327
The **Hundred Years' War** begins	1338
Battle of Sluys	1340
Battle of **Cressy**; Neville's Cross	1346
Calais surrenders to Edward III.	1347
Year of the Black Death	1348
Battle of Poitiers	1356
Proceedings in law-courts conducted in English	1362
Richard II.	1377
Peasant Rising	1381
Death of Wicliffe	1384

HOUSE OF LANCASTER, 1399–1461 A.D.

Downfall of Richard II.; Henry IV. is king	1399
Battle of Shrewsbury	1403
Henry V.	1413
Battle of **Agincourt**	1415
Treaty of Troyes	1420
Henry VI.	1422
Joan of Arc raises the Siege of Orleans	1429
End of Hundred Years' War	1453
Wars of the Roses begin with first battle of St Albans	1455

HOUSE OF YORK, 1461–1485 A.D.

Edward IV.; battle of Towton	1461
Battle of Tewkesbury	1471
Caxton introduces **Printing** into England	1476
Richard III.	1483
Battle of Bosworth; **end of the Wars of the Roses**	1485

HOUSE OF TUDOR, 1485–1603 A.D.

	A.D.
Henry VII.	1485
Discovery of America by Columbus.	1492
Perkin Warbeck hanged.	1499
Marriage of Margaret Tudor to James IV. of Scotland.	1503
Henry VIII.	1509
Battle of Flodden.	1513
Reformation in Germany begins.	1517
Death of Wolsey.	1530
Henry VIII. divorced from Catharine of Aragon.	1533
Power of the Pope in England abolished.	1534
Edward VI.	1547
Battle of Pinkie.	1547
Mary Tudor.	1553
Persecution of the Protestants.	1555
Loss of Calais.	1558
Queen Elizabeth.	1558
Mary Stewart seeks refuge in England	1568
Babington Plot discovered.	1586
Mary Stewart executed at Fotheringay.	1587
Defeat of the **Spanish Armada.**	1588

HOUSE OF STUART, 1603–1714 A.D.

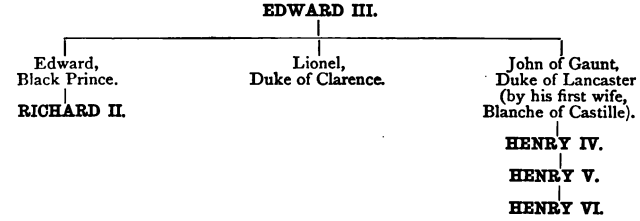
King James.	1603
Gunpowder Plot.	1605
Colony of Virginia founded	1607
Authorised Version of the Bible finished.	1611
Colony of New England founded.	1620
Charles I.	1625
Petition of Right.	1629
Hampden refuses to pay Ship-money; Scotland revolts against Charles I.	1637
Long Parliament meets	1640
Civil War begins; battle of Edgehill.	1642
Marston Moor	1644
Naseby	1645

	A.D.
Execution of Charles I.	1649
Cromwell in Ireland	1649
Battle of Dunbar	1650
Battle of Worcester	1651
War with the Dutch begins	1652
Cromwell is made Protector	1653
Jamaica taken	1655
Death of Cromwell	1658
Restoration of Charles II.	1660
Great Plague in London	1665
Great Fire of London	1666
Dutch ships sail up the Thames	1667
Habeas Corpus Act	1679
James II.	1685
Battle of Sedgemoor	1685
Trial of the Seven Bishops; The Great Revolution	1688

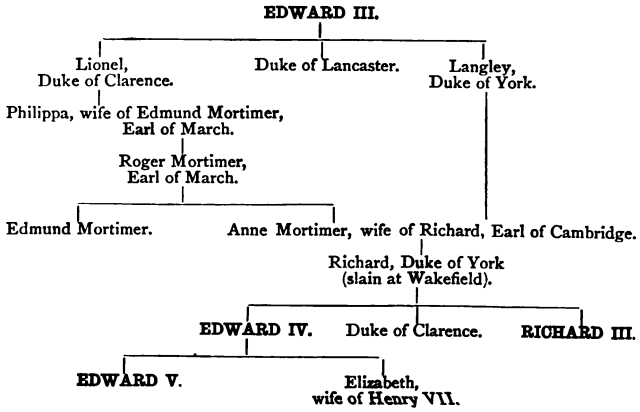
GENEALOGICAL TABLES.

I. HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

(Showing its descent from Edward III.)



II. YORKIST LINE.


EDWARD III.
Lionel, Duke of Clarence.
Duke of Lancaster.
Langley, Duke of York.
Philippa, wife of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March.
Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.
Edmund Mortimer.
Anne Mortimer, wife of Richard, Earl of Cambridge.
Richard, Duke of York (slain at Wakefield).
EDWARD IV.
Duke of Clarence.
RICHARD III.
EDWARD V.
Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII.

III. DESCENT OF HENRY VII.

EDWARD III.

John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster
(by his third wife, Catharine Swynford).

John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset.

John, Duke of Somerset. — Owen Tudor, who married Catharine, widow of Henry V.

Lady Margaret Beaufort, wife of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond.

HENRY VII.

IV. HOUSE OF TUDOR.

(Showing the descent of James I. from Henry VII., and his title to the English Crown.)

HENRY VII.

- Arthur, died 1502.
- Margaret, wife of James IV. of Scotland.
  - James V.
    - Mary, Queen of Scots.
      - **JAMES VI.** of Scotland, and I. of England.
- **HENRY VIII.**
  - **MARY,** daughter of Catharine of Aragon.
  - **ELIZABETH,** daughter of Anne Boleyn.
  - **EDWARD VI.** son of Jane Seymour.
- Mary, whose grand-daughter was Lady Jane Grey.

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